

Towards Socialism



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POST-ELECTION ORIENTATION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT

DEBABRATA BISWAS, GENERAL SECRETARY, AIFB

People of India have experienced the regime of the Congress for a long time. They have also seen in detail the BJP rule at the Centre. And the resultant experience of the both is big disappointment. Hence the crying call of the 15th Lok Sabha election is a non-Congress and non-BJP government at the Centre. In fact, both these parties - the Congress and the BJP are the two sides of the same coin. They don't have any basic difference between them so far their class character is concerned. Both the parties represent the class interest of the Capitalists-Industrialists-Traders-Corporate Houses and the rich and additionally, BJP represents the communal divisive force. Obviously, they are against the interest of the poor - the grand majority of our population. Hence, a change in hand at the Centre - from Congress to BJP or from BJP to Congress, doesn't signify any benefit to the poor. This polarization in Indian politics is a curse to the millions of "have nots" of our country. After 62 years of independence, people are now eagerly looking for a change. Incidentally, the other significant point must be kept in mind. In the era of coalition government, neither the Congress, nor the BJP could command clear majority, and as such the government was led by a minority party. For instance, the last 14th Lok Sabha election gave a scattered verdict, with no single party having a clear majority, resulting in a hung parliament. The Congress bagged 145 seats polling only 26.69% votes, while the BJP won 138 seats with 22.16% votes. The post-election Congress-led alliance, the UPA managed to increase their total number of seats to 216 only, being far below the required majority, but ultimately could come to power with the support of the Left. In other way, just being a minority party with support of only about one fourth of the total electorate came to power at the Centre. Similar was the case with BJP on other occasions. Hence, people's support is not with the Congress or BJP. Still they are enjoying ruling power alternately. This is not at all a healthy sign for democracy in India. This system must be changed for the interest of millions of "have-nots" who represent about 85% of our population. The 15th Lok Sabha election offers this opportunity to make the change to form an alternative government at the Centre.

The process of change has already started. Erosion in both the camps - the Congress led UPA and the BJP-ruled NDA is quite very evident. Majority of the partners of the UPA and NDA have left their respective camps. Under the leadership of the Left a platform is now ready for a Third Front which is being joined by many major non-Congress non-BJP parties. A Third Front or a People's Alternative is in waiting. Post-election orientation is now an urgent task for them.

The primary objective is to form a progressive pro-people secular government at the Centre. The constituents of the government must be non-Congress and non-BJP, national parties as well as the emerging regional parties. Due to wrong Central policy so long followed, the regional needs have been neglected and hence most of the regional aspirations have not been fulfilled. Taking advantage of this situation, a lot of regional parties have emerged, which often becomes stronger than the national parties. During post-election orientation, this aspect of regional problems must be taken care of and a pragmatic approach should be devised to make a healthy balance between the federal obligations and the regional aspirations. And obviously, this third front alternative should carefully draft its objectives and time-bound common minimum programme which should be based on secularism, non-alignment and pro-people economic policy. Future is ours. **POLITICS OF HATRED & VIOLENCE MUST BE DEFEATED**

Politics of hatred and violence in India have found its another new champion in Varun Gandhi who has just fired

his threats - 'if anyone raises a finger against Hindus or if someone thinks Hindus are weak, I swear on the Gita that I will cut that hand.' On the eve of Lok Sabha election, naturally he was booked for this provocative statement by the Election Commission and eventually FIR was filed and he was put under jail custody till the final judicial verdict. But the BJP didn't like to miss the chance. They jumped over the issue and pleaded in defence of their Lok Sabha election candidate Varun Gandhi for his pure Hindutva statement. This Hindutva is the last resort of BJP to revive their lost ground. Anti-minority hatred and violence drove them from Gujrat to Kandhamal & Mangalore, and finally they landed at Pilibhit in U.P. to exploit the Hindutva sentiment on the eve of Lok Sabha election. Theirs Hindutva campaign was not only against the Muslim minorities, as was nakedly seen in mass-killings in Gujrat, but was also against the Christian minorities of Kandhamal (in Orissa) or Mangalore. Their anti-christian violence reached such a stage that in consequence the ruling BJD party was forced to desert the NDA after long 11 years' partnership. BJP started reaping the harvest of their communal agenda from the demolition of Babri Masjid and alluring the innocent religious Hindu community by a fanciful Ram temple. Since then they continued the same communal agenda along with their communal associates like RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal and others. Their active role behind communal riots and destruction of life and property in many minority pockets throughout the country eventually caused loss of people's faith and confidence in them. They occasionally tried some other action plans to regain the lost ground. But the RSS-VHP philosophy of so-called Hindutva ultimately kept them confined within the narrow limits of communal hatred and violence. Varun Gandhi's anti-minority outbursts are nothing but inevitable outcome of this Hindutva mindset which indeed a matter of serious concern for the unity and integrity of the whole country. There are other reasons too behind this communal outburst. BJP is now depending mostly on Hindutva agenda to tide over the adversaries of Lok Sabha election. Varun Gandhi, in place of his mother and sitting M.P. Maneka Gandhi, is the prospective BJP candidates from Pilibhit constituency of UP mostly dominated by Hindus. Hence this line of violent threat against the minorities was his first choice for electoral success. Various campaign speeches were crafted with the intention of polarizing the 15 lakh voters of his constituency among communal lines. Unfortunately, his provocative speech in communal line appears to have roused wide spread anti-minority feeling of hatred among the neighboring areas. It is indeed a matter of serious concern and must be opposed and stopped by combined efforts of all good intention people. Varun Gandhi is just a symbol of the politics of hatred and violence that is nourished by the BJP. This politics must be fought and defeated. It may not be so important as to who will win the seat at Pilibhit. But it is far more important to see that the ill feeling of hatred and violence may not affect the traditionally peace-loving people of all communities who have been living together for many years. There is no doubt that both the Centre and the State authorities must have the responsibility to curb this communal trend ruthlessly. Besides them, the people of all communities must come forward to prevent any such future activities of the BJP and its communal allies.

AN APPEAL TO THE NATION

Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, AIFB

Dear Countrymen,

All India Forward Bloc, the party founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, is contesting elections to the Fifteenth Lok Sabha as a constituent of the Left Front. Netaji had said- "We just do not want political freedom only. We want freedom from all types of bondages. Only then a socialist society can be established-an independent and classless society. The establishment of a classless society is the ultimate goal of our freedom struggle."

Though it has been resolved in the preamble of the Constitution of India that India shall be a Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic yet even sixty one years after attaining political freedom, instead of a socialistic society, the economic disparities are widening. According to the report of the Union Commission on the wage of Unorganised Labor, about 83 crore people of the country are surviving at the daily income of less than Rs.20. The condition of the small and marginal farmers is still worse. They are cursed to live at an average income of Rs. 8 to 17 per day. According to the records of the Central Crime Bureau during 1997to 2005 about 1.5 lakh farmers committed suicides in India. A good number of these people belonged to Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Karnatka and Andhra Pradesh. One of the main targets of our party is to bring an end to the present day crisis in agriculture. Out of the total working population of the country 56 % depend on agriculture. In the total GDP of the country, the share of agriculture has declined to17%. All India Forward Bloc

will so much raise the prices of agriculture products that the share of agriculture in GDP will rise to 40%. The economy will be so planned that the development will revolve around agriculture and the role of industries will be to support agriculture. To promote cottage and village industries, it will be made compulsory for the govt to purchase their produce. At least 5 % of GDP or 2.5 % of the national budget will be allocated to agriculture and allied sectors, village development, irrigation and flood control..

Since the National Rural Employment Guarantee Plan is an unprofitable plan, the millions of rural people including farmers, tribals, women are migrating to the cities where they have to lead a life of hell.

The economy of the country is being run in a way that it should serve only the 15% affluent and privileged section of the society. The majority of the laborers, farmers, tribals, dalits and minorities have to struggle the whole life just for survival. All India Forward Bloc is committed to protect the interests and restore the prestige of the working class who have been marginalized by the anti development policies of the government.

The British govt on the basis of faithlessness, stopping and on the basis of snatching the physical resources from the people, ruled the country and enslaved the nation with the help of thousands of laws. It is really a tragedy that even six decades after independence, about 350 laws enacted by the British are still in use. Some rulers of East India Company are also in use. The judiciary will be re organised in such a way that the people should get the best judgement almost instantly. In the implementation of judicial processes, the society will be taken into confidence. The steps will be taken to develop an alternative judicial system.

In the Chapter 4 of the Constitution the Directive principles have been written. There is a direction to the Legislature from the Constitution that it should enact such laws as ensure social, economic and political justice to all. To bring an end to the economic disparities is also a constitutional duty.

All India Forward Bloc will review the laws enacted by the British Government in the light of the spirit of the Chapter Four of the Constitution of India and make it mandatory to review all the laws within ten years. The resources will be distributed between the urban and rural areas in proportion of population and establish a socialistic society. In accordance with the recommendations of the PERMANENT Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture to free the farmers from the burden of debt the provision number 21 (a) of the Banking Regulatory Act 1949 will be dropped, and to ensure that the interest does not exceed the principal amount. All India Forward Bloc will reject the laws according to which those farmers of the states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar , who fail to return the loan amount, are kept in jail and even the expenditure for keeping them in prison, is charged from them. To reduce the cost of agriculture, the chemicals free organic farming will be encouraged and the genetically developed seeds will be banned. All India Forward Bloc will bring to an end the policy of discrimination between family wages in the organized sector and individual wages in the unorganized sector. All India Forward Bloc is committed to have uniform policy for the rights of every body so that the continuously increasing social and economic disparity can be stopped. About 15 % population of the country, including the tribal people, are dependent on the forests. The 1927 Act of Forests shall be amended to suit the requirements of the tribal people. A new Forest law will be enacted to ensure the protection and diversity of medicinal, social, commercial, wild life and other things. All India Forward Bloc is opposed to Imperialism. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had said in his Presidential address in 1938 at Haripura, " Our fight is not against British Imperialism only, it is against the world imperialism of which British Imperialism is just a part. Hence we are fighting not only for India but for the whole mankind. The independence of India means, the protection of man kind."

The life of people has become miserable because of the wars which are being imposed in the name of terrorism. The policies of liberalism, privatization and globalization which are being adopted to serve the interests of imperialism, have made miserable the life of working class.

Because of the all around unemployment and poverty, it is pessimism all around. In the rich nations of the world the capitalist economy has collapsed and facing unprecedented depression. In India also the stock market has suffered serious set back. The pro capitalist and pro corporate world policies of the Congress and BJP governments are responsible for the recession in the economic market. Our party is committed to take the country out of this social and economic crisis.

All India Forward Bloc will make every possible effort to bring back from the Swiss Banks the Black Money deposited by the Indians in the Swiss Banks and the banks of other countries. The foreign debts will be cleared with this amount and from the balance money, within five years houses will be built which will be

given to the poorer people free of cost. The people who have illegally deposited this amount in the foreign banks, shall be tried under amended anti-national laws.

Since it is the primary duty of the welfare state to provide food, cloth, shelter, health services, education, energy, fuel, transport and communication, All India Forward Bloc will make every possible effort to provide these facilities.

All India Forward Bloc aims at rejecting Indo American Nuclear Deal, to pass Women Reservation Bill and the Right to Education, to increase the minimum wages to Rs.200/- and provide employment for 200 days in NREGA, to provide as much social security to the unorganized labor as is available to the organized labor, to accelerate the development of the minorities on the basis of the Sachhar COMMISSION, and to strengthen Subhaswadi, Leftist and Socialistic unity.

Our party will declare 23rd January, the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as Desh Prem Diwas. The Mukherjee Commission Report about the disappearance of Netaji under mysterious circumstances shall be accepted, and all those classified documents with the govt. which can throw light on the reality of this issue, shall be made public. The unproductive departments which have no utility under the present circumstances and which are obstructing the works being done for the service of people, shall be wound up. To make fundamental changes in the character of the administration the Article 311 of the constitution shall be rejected. The criteria for selections to All India Services shall be changed and the colonial methods of training shall be stopped and the steps will be taken to train them for being responsive and responsible to the people. The corruption will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The present electoral system which is based on dividing the exploited, farmers, dalits, tribals and the working class shall be replaced by a system in which only those candidates will be elected who get minimum 50% votes, so that the era of divide and rule comes to an end..

The Forward Bloc aims at ensuring the Left Unity, to strengthen the alternative to non-Congress and non-B.J.P; with communal harmony create a classless socialistic society and to free the nation from all types of exploitation.

I appeal to all of you that to fulfill the dreams of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose vote for the candidates of All India Forward Bloc with the symbol of 'LION' , and cast your votes to the candidates of Left Front supported by All India Forward Bloc , and help us in building a new great, prosperous and socialist India.

A HUGE DEFEAT IS WAITING FOR THE CONGRESS

G. Devarajan

The ongoing 15th Lok Sabha elections will bring major changes in the national political scenario of our country. The left parties are discussing the national issues in the election campaign along with developmental issues. But the Congress (I) and the BJP are mudslinging each other on petty issues for befooling the people and to divert the people's attention from real issues. The Congress (I) and the BJP have known that if the people's issue will be discussed they will be in great trouble. So they are campaigning on non-issues. But the people are now determined to teach a lesson to both the parties. It is well known that after the 14th Lok Sabha election no party or group got simple majority to form the government. The BJP, the then ruling party faced the election along with more than one dozen political parties and a misleading slogan - India Shining. But the people of our country out rightly rejected their claim and defeated them. Though the BJP failed but the Congress (I) did not won the election. The real winners were the regional parties and the left parties. When the BJP tried to form the government by negating the people's mandates by engineering horse-trade, the left parties have decided to take a political step to keep the BJP away from power. Thus the Congress (I) formed the UPA along with some regional parties. The left parties, knowing fully well the class-character of the Congress (I), have extended their support to the Congress (I) led United Progressive Alliance on the basis of Common Minimum Programme (CMP). But the government during its tenure never showed keen interest to implement the CMP sincerely. Now the Congress (I) leaders are talking about National Rural Employment guarantee Act (NREGA) and Right To Information (RTI) Act as their credit. It is a known fact that these legislations were made only due to the pressure from the left parties. If the support of the left parties were not necessary to survive the government these two important pieces of legislations will not be enacted. The Congress party was in power more than 50 years out of 62 years of our independence. But they never thought about such legislations. Is unemployment a new phenomenon? When our country got independence only three crore young people were unemployed. Now the number has been increased six

times and reached a gigantic eighteen crore. Why the then Congress government did not take any initiative to enact such legislation. It is the left youth organizations relentlessly struggled for 'right to work' and to include it as a fundamental right in the constitution of India. Taking the spirit of these struggles the left parties have mounted pressure on the government to adopt the NREGA. If left parties could not pressurize the government the NREGA could not have been a reality. When the government started to privatize the profit making PSUs, the left parties prevented it. Thus we have saved the Navratna PSUs like BHEL, Neyveli Lignite Corporation etc. But finally the UPA government and the Prime Minister decided to sign the Indo US-Nuclear deal without considering the people's resentment, The left parties have left with no other option but to withdraw support from the government. The Nuclear deal (123 Agreement) is detrimental to the interests of the country and a danger to our sovereignty. This agreement will jeopardize our indigenous research activities to produce nuclear energy by using Thorium. The Government of India gave about Rs.2,80,000 to the USA for importing Nuclear Reactors and Uranium. Thus government of India helped the USA to carry forward its human right violations and aggressive policies. The Indo-US Nuclear Deal is not a single deal between India and the USA. It is one of the deals among a series of defence deal with America. Therefore this deal will make India a junior partner or a strategic partner of USA in the coming days. It is a clear violation of our time tested non-aligned, independent foreign policy. Therefore the left parties withdrew support from the UPA government. The Congress (I) miserably failed to check the growth of communal tension and increasing terrorism. It is the political decision of the left parties weakened the BJP and its front, the NDA. While keeping away from power, the BJP have shown its bourgeois colour and internal squabbles started within the party. The left parties calculated that the BJP would be in trouble without power. It is now proved without an iota of doubt that the powerless BJP was not in a position to keep its flock together. Almost all partners of BJP left their front and contesting each other. It is also a fact that whenever communal violence occurred, the Congress (I) never came to the streets to rescue the innocent people and to put a strong resistance against the communal forces. Whether it is in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh or in Orissa only the left parties bravely came into the streets and extended all sorts of supports to the victims of the communal violence. The Congress (I) shed a single drop of blood in the struggle against communalism while the left parties have lost thousands of brave comrades in the battle against these divisive and destructive forces. It means the Congress (I) have always shown a soft attitude towards the communal forces whether it is at the time of demolition of Babri Masjid or attack against the minorities in Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka etc. By this way the UPA has failed to give a political direction to the nation against Communalism. Common men's life became miserable during the UPA dispensation. The Arjun Sengupta Committee, constituted by the government itself exposed the tall claim of the government about social progress. The Sengupta Committee Report says that 77% of people working in the unorganised sector is earning only Rs. 20/- per day. It is further shocking that about 93% of our workforce is in the unorganised sector. Due to WTO and Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), we are forced to import huge quantity of agricultural products, which we can produce plenty. Due to these agreements and the debt trap spreaded by the local private moneylenders, the farmers are committing suicide. The loan waiver scheme of Central government is not giving any solace to the suffering farmers as they are in the trap of local moneylenders. Due to new economic policy pursued by the then governments, the rural economy is in the shambles. Traditional, rural and indigenous industries are in a moribund stage as they are unable to compete with the Multi National Companies, who have entered in the consumer products industries with the help of new economic policy of the government. Thousands of Small Scale Industries have been closed and lakhs of people have been lost their livelihood. During the last sixty two years of independence, only a 20% of people have got the minimum infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, schools, hospitals and primary health centres, roads, electricity and three time food. If it took sixty years to provide these facilities to only 20 crores of people, it will take another 270 years to extend these facilities to the rest of 90 crore people of our country! The economic policies have created a new group of billionaires and helped the existing billionaires to manifold their assets. The British have divided India geographically as India and Pakistan. But the New economic policy pursued by the then governments have further divided our country as one 'shining India' and another 'weeping India'!

The whole world is reeling under severe economic crisis. This crisis happened due to liberal economic policies pursued by the respective governments. India is also facing the impact of this global meltdown. Our country has somehow insulated from the serious crisis due to the strong resistance done by the left parties

and the trade unions against the liberalization of economy. The strong advocates of LPG policies are now admitting that the left was right. But unfortunately the government of the day failed to address the ongoing impact of economic crisis. Many companies have started to reduce the work force, lakhs of people have lost their jobs, many companies are resorting retrenchment and lockouts, salaries and other benefits have been reducing without prior notices, a total anarchy is prevailing in the job market due to this crisis. Lakhs of people working in abroad have lost their job and returning back to India. But our government is keeping silence and issuing statements everyday that we are well insulated from the crisis. The government thinks that if the liquidity of Banks has increased the crisis can be averted. It is not a prudent economy. The purchasing capacity and the ability of repayment of the people should have increased otherwise the crisis will deepen further. If the people are unable to purchase the goods and to pay back their loans the money flow will stop and the liquidity of bank reserve will not have any use. It does not mean that the government should provide money to all the individuals to pay back their loans. The government should increase the public investments in agriculture, industry both heavy and rural and other infrastructure sectors. By that way the people will be back to their work and will be able to draw their remunerations. Instead of increasing the public investments the government is doing only lip services. In the foreign policy sector, the UPA government has surrendered before the US imperialism not only in the issue of Indo-US Nuclear deal but also by strengthening relationship with Israel. The newly revealed Rs.10,000 crore Missile Deal with Israel shows that the UPA government is succumbing the pressure of USA in all matters. While entering such a deal just two days before the announcement of general election without inviting a global tender the government has violated all existing norms and traditions. The DRDO of our country emphatically stated that we are able to make such Missiles more qualitatively than the Israel Aerospace Industries but the government has ignored the report of the DRDO. It was reported that the Law Ministry also sent a report to the defense department that not to enter any new deal with the proposed company as the Israel Aerospace Industries is facing a CBI enquiry in India on the Barrack Missile deal entered during the NDA regime. Shri. A.K. Antony, the Defence Minister has rejected once the proposal of purchasing Missile from Israel on the basis of these reports. But on 27th February 2009, He issued green signal to sign the deal due to pressure from his colleagues and from the party. It is now revealed that about 9% of the total amount has been handed over to some agents as commission. 9% of Rs 10,000 crore is Rs.900 crore. Though they are not saying it as commission but mentioning as 'business Charges'. The government and the Defense Minister have failed to explain to the nation that what emergent situation forced the government to sign such a deal with just 48 hours before announcing the general elections? Why they have ignored the report of DRDO and Law Ministry? While signing such a big deal with Israel means, the government of India is indirectly supporting the genocide being carried by Israel in the land of Palestine. The people of India always supported the liberation movement of Palestine and extended all sorts solidarity with late Yasser Arafat the leader of PLO. That was the tradition of India to support all democratic movements in different parts of the world. But by entering such a deal with the most rogue country, Israel, the government of India has diluted its tradition of supporting democratic people's movements. The Congress (I) is not ready to discuss all these in the elections. They are not discussing foreign policy deviation, sorry plight of the farmers, the workers in the unorganised sectors, the anomalies in the process of implementation in NREGA, the real problems being faced by the weeping India, the exploitation of MNCs in the backdrop of neo liberal economic policies, the issue of rehabilitation of NRIs those who are returning from foreign countries after loosing their jobs due to global economic crisis, growing communal tension and terrorism, privatization of PSUs, lockouts and retrenchments etc. They are discussing only about 'Third Front' and accusing the non-Congress (I) state governments that they are not implementing the Central Schemes and not spending the money allotted for the same. The Congress (I) leaders should remember that Central fund allocation and Central schemes are not privileges but rights of the states. In a federal system it is the duty of the Central government to allot adequate funds for central schemes and programmes included in the central and concurrent list of our constitution. The Central government is directly collecting various taxes from the states. Only a portion of such taxes is given to the states. Without giving proper tax share and even natural calamity funds to the states, the Congress (I) leaders are accusing the state governments for cheap publicity and to mystify the people. Why the Congress (I) is so worried about the efforts to form the people's alternative against the Congress (I) and the BJP? Why they are saying that all the parties coming together to form such alternative are having different ideologies and will break away soon? One who knows the

political history of post independent India can easily understand that all these regional parties are the products of strong anti-congress movements in their respective states. The Telugu Desam of Andhra Pradesh, AIADMK and DMK of Tamilnadu, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party of Uttar Pradesh, Janata Party, Janata Dal, Biju Janata Dal of Orissa, Rashtriya Janata Dal of Bihar, National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir, NCP of Maharashtra, Akali Dal in Punjab etc have been taken birth against Congress party. But in a federal system they state governments are forced to make good relation with the ruling party at centre for central schemes and adequate allotments. Therefore many of these parties have made understanding with BJP when they became an alternative to the Congress and formed the government. But basically all these parties are anti-congress and anti-communalism. All of them are secular and having national outlook. Therefore whenever there is a political polarization against the Congress (I) and The BJP at national level, all these parties came together and strengthened the secular traditions of our motherland. This time also all of them are severing their connection with the Congress (I) and the BJP and coming together to form a people's alternative to save our country from neo-colonial forces and to protect our freedom and sovereignty. The left parties are playing a very pivotal role in forming such an alternative by using its experience of running successful coalition governments in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala. Reports from different states clearly show that after election there is every possibility to form a non-Congress (I) and non-BJP government at Centre. There are reasons to believe such reports. The BJP led NDA has become anon-entity in this election. In the last election BJP got more than one dozen parties in their kit. When the BJP has lost the power, almost all the partners have left the NDA and joined different other groupings. The DMK, the PMK, LJP of Ram Vilas Paswan, the Trinamool Congress of Mamta Banerjee, the TDP, the INLD and finally the Biju Janata Dal of Orissa also left from the NDA. The internal quarrels between the leaders of BJP at national and state level have proved that not only on political issues, but organizationally also the BJP has no difference with the Congress (I). Therefore the BJP is now struggling to maintain its numbers in different states. For that they are again using the issue of Ram Temple construction and allowing Varun Gandhi type leaders to spew out communal venom to divide the people on religious basis. But the people of India will once again reject their divisive tactics.

The condition of the grand old party, the Congress (I) is more critical than BJP. In many states the Congress (I) do not have efficient leadership. Except Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam, the Congress (I) is not a major party. Let us see the real picture of the Congress (I) in the whole country. In Jammu and Kashmir it is National Conference and In Punjab it is Akali Dal are in power. The Congress (I) is not in power in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim. In south also, the Congress (I) is not in power in the states of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat. In Maharashtra it is sharing power with NCP. In Andhra Pradesh the Congress (I) is facing severe anti-incumbency against Rajashekhar Reddy's government. Therefore, let the Congress (I) leaders say from where they are getting new MPs? The leaders of UPA viz. Sharad Pawar, Lalu Prasad Yadav, M. Karunanidhi and Ram Vilas Paswan are now publicly opposing the Congress (I) on different issues and not considering Dr. Man Mohan Singh as their Prime Minister Candidate. They are also making a front-fourth front. Due to their anti-people policies and subservient attitude towards the US imperialism, the Congress (I) is loosing its ground and its partners. Therefore a Huge defeat awaits the Congress.

All India Forward Bloc Campaigned for LDF Victory in Kerala

The state unit of All India Forward Bloc worked hardly for the victory of LDF candidates in Kerala Earlier, the state committee had decided to contest two seats, where, no CPM and CPI candidates are in the fray. The committee has selected to contest from Ponnani, where an independent candidate supported by LDF and Idukki, the lone Kerala Congress(I) candidate were contesting. The local units had started preparations for contesting the election.

The State Committee met at Ernakulam on 25th March 2009 and decided to meet the LDF leaders and try to explore the possibilities to share the platform with LDF. It was decided that, if the LDF is ready to accommodate All India Forward Bloc AIFB in the campaign, the party will not contest. Accordingly on 27th March 2009, a Forward Bloc delegation met Com. Pinarahi Vijayam, the CPI(M) state secretary and polit burueau member at Kottayam. Com. Pinarayi Vijayan very cordially received the delegation and expressed his gratitude on the decision of AIFB to co-operate with LDF. He promised to the

delegation that the convener of LDF will make proper announcement that the AIFB will be a partner of LDF in the election campaign. But immediately after the meeting. Com. Pinarayi Vijayan himself declared to the press that the LDF welcomes the AIFB in its election campaign. Subsequently, the AIFB delegation met Com. Veliyam Bhargavan, state secretary of CPI and Com. V.P. Ramakrishna Pillai, state secretary of RSP and informed the decision of AIFB State Committee. The meeting with CPI and RSP leaders were also very cordial. The leaders also wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of AIFB. As the meetings and out come of the meeting were cordial and satisfactory, the AIFB state committee has declared not to contest in the election and to work for LDF. The state committee subsequently reviewed that, the victory of LDF is necessary to strengthen the formation of a non-Congress (I) and non-BJP people's alternative at centre and to establish a democratic-secular government.

The next day onwards, the LDF units have invited AIFB leaders in different districts. The AIFB state secretary Com. V. Ram Mohan also contacted all CPI(M) district secretaries and arranged meetings between LDF leaders and AIFB leaders in all 14 districts of Kerala. Com. G. Devarajan, Secretary of AIFB campaigned for LDF in 16 constituencies in Kerala out of 20. He attended average two meetings in each parliament constituencies. The LDF committees have organized huge public meetings and rallies at different places, where Com. G. Devarajan was the main speaker. He also attended and spoke in the public meetings along with Com. Prakash Karat, General Secretary (CPI(M)), Com. V.S. Achutanandan, Chief Minister of Kerala and Polit Bureau member of Kerala, Com. Pinarayi Vijayan CPI(M) state secretary, Com. T.J. Chandrachudan, General Secretary RSP, Com. Veliyam Bhargawan CPI state secretary and with several ministers and state level LDF leaders. While addressing the meetings, Com. G. Devarajan elaborately explained about the political importance of the election and the necessity of the victory of LDF candidates. He stated that in the earlier elections, the Left parties seeked vote for extending support for a secular government at centre after election or make qualitative interference in the parliament debates in favour of working people. But this time the Left parties are seeking vote for establishing a secular government at Centre keeping the Congress (I) and the BJP away from power. Other leaders of AIFB Com. V. Ram Mohan, Com. K. R. Brahmanandan, Com. Thankachan Varghese, Com. Arun S. Sasi, Com. A.K. Satish Chandran, Com. M.R. Sasidharan Pillai, Com. P.P.A. Rahim, Com. T. Naushad, Com. Humayun, Com. Kanchangatt Vijayan, Com. P.A. Roy, Com. Dipin Thekkepuram, Com. Velladurai Pandian, Com. Ratinam, Com. Sudhakaran, Com. Shyam Prasad, Com. PP Chandran, Com. Krishna Kumar, Com. Devdas Kuttayam, Com. Gopan, Com. Kalathil Vijayan, Com. R. Janardhanan Nair, Com. (Adv.) Binu, Com. Rajan Amboori, Com. T.P. Rajan also attended in several meetings. Many of the AIFB leaders in different districts were included in the election committee. Thus a new chapter of cooperation between AIFB and LDF began in Kerala.

THE SECRET SUMMIT

Neither represented nor excommunicated, only today could I learn what was discussed at the Summit of Port of Spain. They led us all to entertain hopes that the meeting would not be secret, but those running the show deprived us of such an interesting intellectual exercise. We shall get to know the substance but not the tone of voice, the look in the eyes or the facial look that can be a reflection of a person's ideas, ethic and character. A Secret Summit is worse than a silent movie. For a few minutes the television showed some images. There was a gentleman on Obama's left whom I could not identify clearly as he laid his hand on Obama's shoulder, like an eight-year-old boy on a classmate in the front row. Then, another member of his entourage standing beside him interrupted the president of the United States for a dialogue; those coming up to address him had the appearance of an oligarchy that never knew what hunger is and who expect to find in Obama's powerful nation the shield that will protect the system from the fearsome social changes.

Up to that moment, a bizarre atmosphere prevailed at the Summit .

The artistic function arranged by the host was really spectacular. I have seldom seen something like it; perhaps never. A good announcer, apparently a Trinitarian, had proudly said that it was unique.

It was a feast of culture and luxury. I meditated about it. I calculated the cost of all that and suddenly I realized that no other country in the Caribbean could afford such a display, that the venue of the summit is very wealthy, a sort of United States surrounded by small poor countries. Could Haiti with its exuberant culture or Jamaica , Granada , Dominica , Guyana , Belize or any other have hosted such a luxurious

summit? Their beaches may be wonderful but they are not surrounded by the towers that distinguish the Trinitarian landscape and accumulate with that non-renewable raw material the enormous resources that sustain today the riches of that country. Almost every other island in the Caribbean community located to the north of this is directly battered by the hurricanes of increasing intensity that hit our sister islands of the Caribbean region every year.

Did anyone in that meeting remember that Obama promised to invest as much money as necessary to make the United States self-reliant in fuel? Such a policy would directly affect many of the States taking part in the meeting since they will not have access to the technologies and the huge investments required to work on that area or any other.

Something really impressed me as the summit unfolded until today, Saturday, April 18, at 11:47 a.m. when I am writing these lines: Daniel Ortega 's remarks. I had promised myself not to publish anything until next Monday, April 20, but rather to observe the developments in the celebrated summit.

It was not the economist, the scientist, the intellectual or the poet speaking; Daniel did not choose an elaborate language to impress his audience. He spoke as the president of one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere, as a revolutionary combatant, on behalf of a group of Central American nations and the Dominican Republic which is a partner of SICA (Central American Integration System). It would suffice to be one of the hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans who learned how to read and write in the first stage of the Sandinista Revolution, when the illiteracy rate was reduced from 60 to 12 percent, or again when Daniel received power in 2008 as the illiteracy rate had increased to 35 percent.

His remarks extended for nearly 50 minutes. He spoke slowly and calm, but the reproduction of the full text would make this Reflection too extensive.

I shall summarize his statement using his own words for each of the basic ideas he expressed. I will avoid the use of suspension points and use inverted commas only when Daniel quotes other people or institutions. Nicaragua appealed to the International Court of Justice in The Hague . It filed a lawsuit against the war policy, the terrorist policy implemented by President Ronald Reagan on behalf of the United States .

Our crime: we had freed ourselves from Anastasio Somoza 's tyranny imposed through the intervention of the Yankee troops in Nicaragua .

From the past century, Central America has been shaken by the expansionist policies, the war policies that brought the Central Americans together to defeat them.

These were followed by interventions extending from the year 1912 to 1932, which resulted in the imposition of the Somozas' tyranny equipped, funded and defended by American leaders.

I had the opportunity of meeting President Reagan during the war; we shook hands and I asked him to stop the war against Nicaragua .

I had the opportunity of meeting President Carter and when he told me that "now that the Nicaraguan people had got rid of the Somoza tyranny it was time for Nicaragua to change" I said to him: No, Nicaragua does not have to change, you have to change. Nicaragua has never invaded the United States ; Nicaragua has not planted mines in the U.S. harbors; Nicaragua has not thrown a stone against the American nation; Nicaragua has not imposed governments on the United States ; you are the ones who should change and not the Nicaraguans.

As the war was still going on, I had the chance to meet the then recently inaugurated President of the United States George Bush, senior. In the year 1989, at a gathering in Costa Rica , we sat facing each other, President Bush and me, and he said: "The press has come here because they want to see a fight between the president of the United States and the president of Nicaragua , and we have made an effort not to oblige them."

Nicaragua was still fighting the war imposed by the United States . The International Court of Justice in The Hague decided on the lawsuit filed by Nicaragua and passed sentence. It clearly stated that "the United States should cease every military action, the mining of the harbors and the funding of the war; that it should indicate where the mines had been planted since it refused to provide that information;" it also ordered the U.S. government to compensate Nicaragua for the trade and economic blockade imposed on that nation.

We are waging a struggle in Nicaragua, Central America and Latin America to eradicate illiteracy with the generous and unconditional solidarity of the fraternal Cuban people, of Fidel who promoted such literacy campaigns in solidarity with our peoples, and of President Raul Castro who has continued these programs for the benefit of all of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples. Later, the Bolivarian people of Venezuela

and its President Hugo Chavez Frias joined in this effort with a generous spirit. Most of the presidents and heads of government of Latin America and the Caribbean are here today; also the President of the United States and the Primer Minister of Canada . But there are two notable absentees: one is Cuba , whose only crime has been to fight for the peoples' sovereignty and independence; to give solidarity, unconditionally, to our peoples. That's why it is sanctioned, that's why it is punished; that's why it is excluded. That's why I do not feel comfortable today in this Summit ; I cannot feel comfortable in this Summit . I am embarrassed to be attending this summit in the absence of Cuba .

Another country is not present here because unlike Cuba , which is an independent and supportive nation, that other people is still submitted to colonialist policies: I mean the fraternal people of Puerto Rico .

We are working to build a great alliance, a great unity of Latin American and Caribbean peoples. The day will come when the Puerto Rican people is also a part of that great alliance.

In the 1950s racial discrimination was institutionalized, it was part of the American way of life, part of the American democracy: black people could not walk into white people's restaurants or white people's bars. The children of black families could not attend the white children schools. In order to turn down the wall of racial discrimination it was necessary --and this President Obama knows better than we do— Martin Luther King , jr, said: "I have a dream." The dream became a reality and the wall of racial discrimination collapsed in the United States of America , thanks to the struggle of that people.

This meeting, this gathering is opening exactly the same day that the invasion of Cuba started in 1961. Talking with the President of Cuba Raul Castro , he gave me some data: " Daniel , President Obama was born on August 4, 1961; he was three and a half months when we attained victory in Playa Giron on April that year. Obviously he is not accountable for that historic event. The bombings on April 15; the proclamation of socialism by Fidel during the funeral of the victims on the 16th; the invasion on the 17th; on the 18th, the battle goes on and victory is attained on the 19th, before 72 hours had passed. Raul ." (On his return from Cumana, Raul related to me that in a note he wrote for Daniel he made a quick calculation and was wrong to assert that Obama was three and a half months at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, when he should have said that Obama was born three and a half months later; that it was his [Raul's] mistake.)

That is history. In the year 2002, also in the month of April , on the 11th, a coup d'etat was dealt to murder an elected president in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela . President Hugo Chavez was seized; the order to murder him had been issued. When the puppet regime took over, the U.S. government through its spokesman recognized the putschers and offered them support. We are right to say that that is not history; such violent events against the institutions of a people, of a progressive, supportive and revolutionary nation took place hardly seven years ago.

I think that the time I'm taking is shorter than the three hours I had to wait at the airport inside the plane.

The freedom of expression must apply to the big ones and the little ones: Belize , Costa Rica , Guatemala , Honduras , Nicaragua , Panama , El Salvador , and the Dominican Republic as an associate. The territorial area is 355,617.5 square miles. The population is a little more than 41.7 million.

We are asking that all immigrants in the United States receive the TPS, but the causes of migration are the underdevelopment and poverty of our Central American peoples.

The only way to stop that flow of emigrants to the United States is not building a fence or reinforcing military surveillance along the border.

The United States needs the Central American labor force, as it needs the Mexican labor force. Then, when the supply of that labor force is higher than the demand of the U.S. economy, repressive policies come into play, while funds should be contributed without political strings attached, without the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

We have the ungrateful task of protecting the U.S. borders due to drug abuse.

Just in Nicaragua , the national police impounded over 360 tons of cocaine last year. That, at a market price in the United States , would certainly amount to more than 1 billion dollars.

How much does the United States provide Nicaragua for guarding its borders? It provides 1,200,000 dollars.

It's not fair, it's not equitable, it's not ethical. It is not moral that the G-20 continues to make the great decisions; the time has come for the G-192, that is, for all countries in the United Nations to make them.

Those who have had dealings with the IMF are perfectly aware of what the Fund has meant, of the social, agricultural and productive programs that have been cut off to obtain resources to pay back the debt, a debt imposed by the rules established by global capitalism. It has only been an instrument setting forth and

developing colonialist, neocolonialist and imperialist policies from the metropolises.

Mahatma Gandhi, who waged a heroic struggle against England for the independence of India, said that England had used one-fourth of the resources of the planet to reach its current state of development. So, what resources would India need to attain a similar condition? Now, in this 21st century, and since the end of the 20th century, it was not only England but every developed capitalist country that established their hegemony at the expense of the destruction of the planet and the human species, imposing the consumerist patterns of their model.

The only way to save the planet, and the sustainable development of mankind with it, will be to lay the foundations of a new international economic order, a new socio-economic and political model which is truly fair, supportive and democratic.

There is the project known as PETROCARIBE and there is ALBA –most of the Caribbean nations are members of PETROCARIBE, but there are also members of SICA which belong to PETROCARIBE: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Panama.

"The heads of State and Government of Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela, members of ALBA, consider that the draft Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas is insufficient and unacceptable for the following reasons:

(He goes on to read the ALBA Declaration on the document proposed for the Summit of the Americas).

"It does not respond to the issue of the Global Economic Crisis, even though that is the greatest challenge faced by mankind in decades.

"It unjustifiably excludes Cuba without mentioning the general consensus in the region to condemn the blockade and the attempts to constantly isolate its people and government in a criminal fashion.

"What we are experiencing is a structural and systemic global economic crisis and not just another cyclic crisis.

"The environmental crisis has been caused by capitalism which had subordinated the necessary conditions for life on the planet to the predominance of markets and profits.

To avoid this outcome it is necessary to develop an alternative model to the capitalist system. A system in harmony with our Mother Earth and not one that plunders its natural resources; a system of cultural diversity and not of crushing cultures and imposing cultural values and life styles that have nothing to do with the realities of our countries; a system of peace based on social justice and not on imperialist wars and policies; a system that does not reduce them to simple consumers or merchandise.

Regarding the U.S. blockade on Cuba and the exclusion of this country from the Summit of the Americas, the member countries of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) reiterate the Declaration adopted last December 16, 2008, by all of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the necessity to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, including the implementation of the so-called Helms-Burton Act, widely known to all.

In my country, Nicaragua, the governments that preceded me strictly enforced the neoliberal policies, that is, from 1990, when the Sandinista Front left the government, until January 10, 2007, when the Sandinista Front returned to government; they enforced them for 16 years.

As the Nicaraguan Revolution triumphed in 1979, it found that the tyrannies and governments that had been imposed and sustained in Nicaragua by the U.S. administrations, the self-defined democratic governments, had left Nicaragua with 60 percent illiteracy.

Our first big battle was to eradicate illiteracy. We undertook that battle and reduced illiteracy to 11.5 or 12 percent. We couldn't go further because we were imposed a war policy by the Reagan administration.

We left the government in 1990 with 12.5 percent illiteracy in the country and on January 2007 we received back the country with 35 percent illiteracy.

This data have not been made up by the government; they have been released by agencies specialized in education and culture.

That is the result of the neoliberalism applied in Nicaragua; the result of privatizations in Nicaragua where healthcare and education were privatized and the poor were left out. For others it was a good change because they amassed fortunes; the model has proven successful to concentrate riches and extend poverty. It is a great concentrator of riches and a great multiplier of poverty and destitution.

It is an ethical problem, a moral problem, and the future lies on it; not only the future of the most impoverished

countries --as the five countries of Latin America and the Caribbean I have mentioned—that have little else to lose other than our shackles, if there is not a change of ethics, a change of moral, a change of values that will enable us to be really sustainable.

It is no longer a matter of ideology, it's not a political issue; it's a matter of survival. And this applies to all, from the G-20 to the G-5 who are the most impoverished in Latin America and the Caribbean .

I think that this crisis that is affecting the world today and that is leading to discussions, debates, and to a search for solutions we should approach it bearing in mind that the current development model is no longer possible, no longer sustainable.

The only way to save us all is to change the model.

Thank you, very much.

Daniel's phrases at the opening session of the Summit were like a bell tolling for a centuries-old policy that until a few months ago was applied to the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean .

It is 19:58 hours. I have just listened to the words of President Hugo Chavez . Apparently, Venezolana de Television introduced a camera in the "Secret Summit" and carried some of his words. Yesterday we saw him graciously return Obama's gesture as he walked up to greet him, unquestionably a clever gesture of the United States president. This time Chavez stood up from his chair, walked to Obama's seat at the head of a rectangular hall near Michelle Bachelet, and presented him with the well known book by Galeano, *Las venas abiertas de America Latina*, systematically updated by the author. I simply mentioned the time it was when I listened to him.

It is announced that the Summit will be closed tomorrow at noon.

The United States president has been very active. According to press reports he has not only taken part in the plenary session of the Summit but also met with every regional subgroup.

His predecessor went to bed early and slept for many hours. Seemingly, Obama works hard and sleeps little.

Today, the 19th , at 11:57 hours, I don't see anything new. The CNN news channel has no fresh news. The clock struck 12 when the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago stood on the rostrum. I prepare to listen to him, and then I perceive some strange signals. Manning's face looks tense. Later, Obama speaks and takes some questions from the press; I find him gruff although calm. I was surprised that a press conference was organized with several leaders without the participation of any of those who disagreed with the document. Manning had said before that the document had been elaborated two years back when there was not a deep economic crisis; therefore, the current issues had not been properly examined. Of course, I thought, McCain was not there; surely the OAS, Leonel and the Dominican Republic remembered the name of the military commander of the invaders in 1965 and the 50 thousand troops that occupied the country to prevent the return of Juan Bosch who was not a Marxist-Leninist. The leaders in the press conference were the Prime Minister of Canada, certainly a rightist and the only one who had been rude to Cuba; Mexican President Felipe Calderon; Martin Torrijos from Panama and, naturally, Patrick Manning. The Caribbean and the two Latin American leaders were respectful to Cuba ; none of them attacked it, and they had expressed their opposition to the blockade.

Obama spoke of the United States military power, which could be of assistance in the fight on organized crime, and of the significance of the U.S. market. He also admitted that the programs carried forward by the government of Cuba , such as sending groups of doctors to countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, could be more effective than Washington 's military power to gain influence in the region.

We, the Cubans do not do it to gain influence; it's a tradition that was born in Algeria in 1963, when that country was fighting French colonialism, and we have later done likewise in scores of Third World countries.

He was gruff and elusive with regards to the blockade in his interview with the press; but he is already born and he will be 48 years next August 4.

Nine days later, that same month, I will be 83, almost twice his age, but now I have much more time to think. I wish to remind him of a basic ethical principle with respect to Cuba: there is no excuse for any injustice, any crime to last, regardless of time; the cruel blockade on the Cuban people takes lives and causes suffering; it also affects the economy of the nation and limits its possibilities to cooperate with healthcare, education and sports services, with energy saving and with the protection of the environment in many poor countries of the world.

.....Fidel Castro Ruz, April 19, 2009 2:32 p.m.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN AT PEAK IN NORTHERN INDIA

The All India Forward Bloc geared up election campaign in Northern India. The AIFB is contesting from Muzaffarpur, Patliputra, Jahanabad, Arrah in Bihar, Dhanbad in Jharkhand, Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Khajuraro, Rewa, Mansore, Morena in Madhya Pradesh, Faridabad in Haryana, Chandani Chowk in Delhi.

Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary of All India Forward Bloc made a whirlwind election tour in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. He attended several public meetings and workers's conventions. In the workers conventions, he explained about the strategies of election campaign and the way's of campaigning. He told the AIFB workers that elections are the main opportunities to propagate the ideals of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as an alternative ideology to save our country from all miseries. He chalked out detailed plan and programme to conduct election campaign successfully.

In the public meetings, Com. Biswas elaborately explained about the national political situation. He described that the Congress(I) led UPA and the BJP led NDA not participating in the election as fronts. All the partners of BJP and the Congress (I) have deserted them and joining the alternative platform of left, democratic and secular forces. The Congress (I) and BJP cannot maintain their status. They are losing their ground and the regional parties are gaining at the cost of BJP and Congress (I). Therefore, a non-Congress (I), non BJP government will come to power after the election.

Com. Biswas described about the sorry plight of our rural people, who are deprived of enjoying the fruits of independence and developments. After the independents all our planning have been made for a small section of affluent class. It means the developments for the corporates and rich. While planning for the rich, the ruling class neglected the poor. The imperialist design of development targeted only to satiate the interests of the corporate financial institutions. Therefore, India need a people's planning for prop-people developmental programmes. A non-Congress(I), non-BJP secular alternative can only provide such planning and programmes. This election is an opportunity to teach a lesson to the Congress (I) and the BJP. Com. Biswas urged upon the people to elect the AIFB candidates and to support the non-Congress(I) and non-BJP candidates to bring a political change in our country, which can only ensure the safety of rural India and protection of our sovereignty.

AIFB leaders, Com. Bir Singh Mahato, Com. Jiban Saha, MLA, Com. S.P. Tiwari, Com. S.S. Chouhan, Com. Ram Avtar Pachori, Com. D.N. Jha, Com. Dharmendra Kumar, Com. Ram Dayal Ram, Mhd. Sadaruddin, Com. Sadhu Sinha, Com. (Dr. Shambhu Prasad, Com. (Prof.) Surya Bhan Singh Yadav, Com. Salma Saudagar, Com. Sheikh Ajizuddin Qureshi, Com. Devender Singh Sikarwar, Com. Ram Sevak Chowdhary and Com. Ajay Mittal also spoke in different meetings.

LION AND NETAJI FLAGS ARE UNFURLING AT HIGH IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

The All India Forward Bloc is contesting four Lok Sabha Seats in Jammu and Kashmir, viz. Jammu, Udhampur, Anantnag and Baramulla. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now familiar with the lion symbol, the election symbol of All India Forward Bloc as the party is contesting all elections in Kashmir at its own.

It is a bigger challenge to contest in the election by ignoring the threat from the militants and the strict do's and don'ts of military and police. But the brave followers of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who are imbued with great patriotism came forwards to contest the election against all odds. They are carrying the flags of Netaji and lion symbol along with a slogan i.e. 'Rebuild India in Netaji's way'.

Com. G. Devarajan, secretary All India Forward Bloc attended several meetings in Jammu & Kashmir on 21st and 22nd April 2009. While addressing the meetings, he explained about the political importance of this election. He urged upon the people to cast vote in favour of AIFB for bringing changes in the day to day life of the poor people of our country. He also narrated about the situation of Jammu & Kashmir. Unemployment and lack of infrastructure facilities are main problems of the people in the states. The central government announces special packages for J & K time to time. But these schemes are not reaching to the needy people. The bureaucrats and one section of the ruling clique are looting the public money by projecting militancy as a reason. The people do not have any role in planning and developmental works, nepotism, corruption and exploitation are at the peak in all administrative sectors in Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, only a patriotic party can make changes in the social and system. The AIFB is in the state and contesting elections to make such changes.

Com. Gh. Mohiuddin Sheikh, com. Shahid Mansoor, Com. Aseef Baigh and Candidates of all four constituencies also spoke in different meetings. Com. Rajen Padari and Com. Z.A. Bhatti also attended several meetings in the state. The AIFB is keeping its flag and banner high in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir through its election campaign.

AIFB SURGING AHEAD IN WEST BENGAL

The AIFB and the Left front of West Bengal have geared up their election campaign in the state and ignoring all malpropaganda of the opposition.

A visible wave in favour of the Left front has created a new enthusiasm among the cadres of the Left parties and increased their confidence. The left front of West Bengal will increase their number of seats in this election.

The candidates of All India Forward Bloc Com. Narahari Mahato (Purulia), Com. Nripendra Nath Roy (Cooch-Bihar) and Com. Sudheer Chattopadhyay (Barasat) are campaigning door to door and trying to meet all the voters. Public meetings, rallies and conventions are taking place in all the constituencies with the participation of large number of people. The people of Bengal have realized that, after election a non-Congress (I), non-BJP government will come to point. The left front MPs from Bengal have to play very vital role in forming such a secular government at Centre. Therefore the victory of Left front candidates is utmost necessary. Keeping this aim, the Left front has streamlined its campaign. More and more people from all walks of life are attending the public meetings and expressing their satisfactions over the left parties on their actions during the UPA regime. The political conscious people of West Bengal realizing that, the Left parties are the only force in Indian politics, which keeps its credibility. The left is the lone force to resist the communalism and neo-imperialist machinations.

The leaders of AIFB are campaigning for Left front candidates throughout the state. Com. Ashok Ghosh, General Secretary of AIFB Bengal Committee is monitoring the campaign of AIFB candidates while discharging his responsibility as senior leader of the Left front. AIFB leaders, i.e. Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, Com. Naren Dey, Secretary, Com. (Dr.) Barun Mukherji, M.P., Secretary, Com. G. Devarajan, Secretary, Com. Hafiz Alam Sairani, Secretary, Com. Bir Singh Mahato, Secretary etc. are attending different meetings in different parts of the state. The whole state unit is working as a well oiled machine for ensuring the victory of Left front candidates

AIFB Geared up Election Campaign in Assam

Guwahati, April, 2009, In the eve of 15th Lok Sabha Election, the Assamese version of the MANIFESTO of ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC, was released by Dr. Barun Mukherjee, M.P. and Central Secretariat member of A.I.F.B. at Guwahati Press Club on 11th April, 09. This is the first time in the history of ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC, that the party have been filed two candidates in two Parliamentary Constituency like, Com. P.I. Singh for Nagaon Constituency and Com. Ratneswar Gogoi for Lakhimpur and another one independent candidate Com. Malati Ray, supported by A.I.F.B. for Karimganj Constituency in Assam. At the Guwahati Press Club along with Com. Dr. Barun Mukherjee, Com. Shyamal Roy, Central Secretariat Member, A.I.F.B. Com. Anup Das, zonal Secretary, Com. Tapan Debnath, Zonal Chairman Com. Mihir Nandi, Zonal Secretary, Com. Bhaskar Barua, Member, Zonal Committee, A.I.F.B. Assam were also present. In this occasion of the release of Manifesto 2009. Dr. Barun Mukherjee explained the party's view to all the Media persons as follows. I To strengthen Left unity & Build up peoples alternative. I To Establish a non congress and non BJP Government. I To protect our Freedom and Sovereignty. I To Maintain Communal Harmony and Resist Terrorism. I To Ensure equitable Development. And for Assam (a few of the demands)

I Political negotiation / discussion should be started with the N.E. Terrorist Organisations immediately to solve the problem. I Proper planning for Flood Control in Assam. I For better Tea production better Training programme are to be introduced in Assam. I Recognise the world heritage of Mazuli. I To Declare the Brahmaputra River as National water Transport route. I To Complete Silchar - Lumding Brodeguage Rly line and East - West Express High way immediately. Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary of the party visited Assam and campaigned for three days. 14-16 April. He addressed several meetings and explained about the necessity of ensuring the defeat of Congress(I). He also expressed regret on Assa Gana Parishad's decision to make alliance with BJP. Com. Biswas emphatically opined that after election, a non-Congress(I), non-BJP government will be formed under the auspicious of the Left parties. It is the need of the hour to save our freedom and sovereignty from the hands of the neo-imperialism forces. He urged upon the people of Nagaon and Lakhimpur to vote in favour of AIFB, the party founded by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Com. (Dr.) Mortaza Hussain, Minister of Agri-Marketing, Govt. of West Bengal also visited the state and attend several meetings on 18th and 19th April. He also urged upon the people to vote in favour AIFB candidates.