

Editorial

Hail the Successful Convening of the Third Congress of the Communist Ghadar Party of India

Modern Communism hails the successful convening of the Third Congress of the Communist Ghadar Party of India (CGPI) which was held in Delhi from January 27-29, 2005. We also hail the adoption of the Constitution of the CGPI, the election of the fourth Central Committee and the election of Comrade Lal Singh as General Secretary of CGPI and Comrade Prakash Rao as the spokesperson of the party. The Communique of the Central Committee of the Communist Ghadar Party of India entitled *Call of the Third Congress of CGPI* is reprinted on page 2 of this issue.

A congress is the highest authority and one of the most significant events in the life of a communist party. It sums up the work since the previous congress, analyzes the current situation and sets the

political line and the line of march for the party for the upcoming period. The situation in India is very complex and difficult. Not only is revolution still in ebb, but the communist movement in India is extremely fragmented. However, the discussions within CGPI leading up to its Third Congress and the fighting positions it adopted at its congress demonstrate that the Indian working class and people have a communist party capable of finding its bearings under the most difficult conditions.

Modern Communism wishes the Communist Ghadar Party of India and all Indian communists success in their work to unite the Indian communist movement around a revolutionary program to establish the rule of the workers and peasants and a voluntary Indian Union.

MRC of CPC(M-L) to Host Second Annual Revolutionary Chautauqua

The Manitoba Regional Committee of CPC(M-L) has announced that it will be hosting the Second Annual Revolutionary Chautauqua from July 17 to 24 at Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park. The purpose of the Chautauqua is to bring together political activists of all ages to discuss politics, culture and the problems confronting the revolutionary anti-capitalist movement

The term Chautauqua comes from an experiment in mass education which began in northwest New York State in 1874. It combined a vacation setting with a participatory model of learning, combining lectures and cultural presentations with vigorous discussions and debates. It quickly became a popular forum for raising the level of culture,

education and political awareness of the American population. During the early twentieth century, travelling Chautauquas took the concept to tens of thousands of small communities, broadening the cultural horizons of millions of people. The Chautauqua experience varied widely, from the purely cultural to religious to political, depending on who was organizing the event. Many of the foremost educators, cultural workers and political thinkers of the day participated in Chautauquas, as presenters, lecturers and participants in discussions.

The first Revolutionary Chautauqua, held from July 12 to 18, 2004, discussed, among other things, the use of culture to mobilize youth for revolution.

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Call of the Third Congress of CGPI

March towards the Rule of Workers and Peasants, and a Voluntary Indian Union!

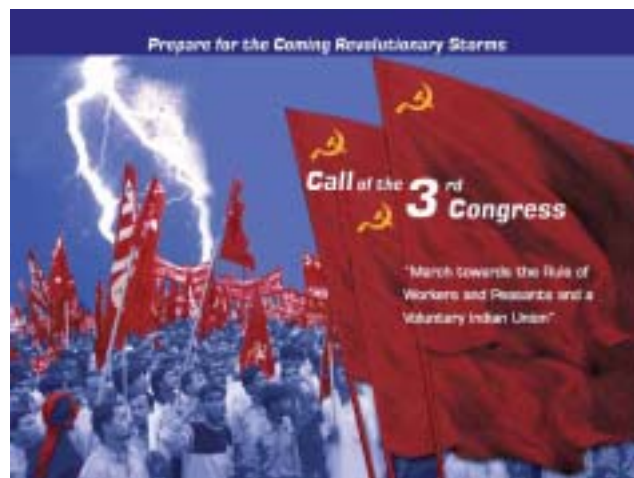
Communique of the Central Committee of the Communist Ghadar Party of India, 29 January 2005

The Third Congress of the Communist Ghadar Party of India was held in Delhi during 27-29 January, 2005. With the participation of delegates from all over the country and from Indians resident abroad, the Third Congress discussed and adopted the Report presented by Comrade Lal Singh on behalf of the third Central Committee. The Third Congress adopted the Constitution of the Communist Ghadar Party of India and elected the fourth Central Committee. The fourth Central Committee met on 29th January and elected Comrade Lal Singh as the General Secretary, and Comrade Prakash Rao as the Spokesperson of the Party.

The Third Congress of the Communist Ghadar Party of India was honoured by the presence and participation of delegations of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) and the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). Their interventions and interactions helped to reaffirm the unity of workers of all countries, and of the close fraternal relations that exist between the Marxist-Leninist parties of Canada, Britain and India.

The Report adopted by the Third Congress consists of three parts. The first part sums up the work since the Second Congress; and is entitled *Building the Party in the course of Leading the Class Struggle*. The second part is a contemporary analysis of the crisis in India and on the world scale; it is entitled *Towards the Rule of Workers and Peasants, and a Voluntary Indian Union*. The third part is the *Plan of Action*.

The assessment of the Third Congress is that we are still living in a period within the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution, when the tide of world revolution is in ebb. The peoples are threatened with the intensification of super-exploitation, growing fascism and reactionary wars; and their opposition to this anti-social offensive is rising. The class struggle is growing more intense, pointing to the fact that revolutionary tide will once again turn to flow.



The analysis and conclusions of the Third Congress reaffirm the general line adopted by the Second Congress in October 1998. The Report reaffirms the program for the reorientation and reconstitution of India, with the political aim of establishing the rule of workers and peasants, and a voluntary Indian Union. It reconfirms that this is the necessary condition to lift society out of the crisis and open the door to its revolutionary transformation from capitalism to socialism. It notes that several new demands have emerged from the class struggle, which have further enriched the fighting program.

The Third Congress expressed solidarity with all the communist, anti-imperialist, anti-fascist and anti-war forces in all continents of the world, and resolved to strengthen the worldwide front of the peoples against imperialism. Noting the grave dangers that threaten South Asia, it called for special efforts to build and strengthen the unity among the working class and peoples of South Asia against US imperialism and the machinations of all imperialist powers. In the context of the offensive of imperialism against the sovereignty and very existence of nations and peoples, and the empire building efforts of the

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Canadian Political Crisis Continues

The House of Commons came to a virtual standstill last week as Conservative and Bloc Quebecois MPs refused to show up for either committee meetings or debate and question period in the House of Commons. This was the latest in a series of attempts by the opposition parties to bring down the Martin Liberal government.

According to Conservative leader Stephen Harper and Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe, an election is necessary because the ongoing allegations being made at the Gomery Inquiry about the Liberal Party's implication in corruption have robbed the government of its moral authority to govern. In the past two weeks, testimony at the inquiry has included tales of thousands of dollars being distributed to "volunteer" campaign workers, unreported election contributions and threats and intimidation. Prime Minister Martin has pleaded for time and has pledged to call an election within 30 days of the release of the Gomery Inquiry report. While the Liberals have the support of NDP leader Jack Layton, it is widely expected that the government will fall in a confidence vote this week, meaning there will be a federal election before the end of June.

Aside from the Bloc increasing its share of the seats in Quebec, the only certainty in the next election is that it will not resolve the country's political crisis. If current opinion polls are any indication, the next government will also be a minority government. This will further exacerbate the political crisis which has gripped the Canadian parliamentary system for more than a decade.

At the heart of this crisis is the credibility crisis of Canadian representative democracy which has proved to be neither representative nor democratic. By the late 1980s and early 1990s Canadians had made it clear that they were no longer satisfied being relegated to the role of voting cattle and wanted a meaningful role in the decision-making process. Both the Spicer Commission and the Beaudoin-Dobbie Commission identified, among other things, widespread dissatisfaction with Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system, with the fact that the

electoral system is controlled by political parties that represent less than two percent of the population and with the almost total lack of accountability of elected "representatives". This deep discontent with the electoral system has led to a severe decline in voter participation in elections, especially amongst the youth. This trend, in turn, further undermines the credibility of the government.

Coupled with this credibility crisis is the crisis of the two-party system which has gripped Canada since the 1993 decimation of the post-Mulroney Conservative Party. This is a crisis within the monopoly capitalist ruling class itself and a reflection of the deep divisions which exist within that class. The Canadian system of political parties developed during a period in which British colonialism was losing its grip on Canada and the United States was making economic inroads into the country. The Conservative Party more or less stood for maintaining the colonial ties to Britain, while the Liberals stood for "continentalism" and greater integration into the American economy. However, the Canadian electorate has never supported greater integration into the American economy, so since the time of Laurier the Liberals have presented themselves as nationalists while governing as integrationists. Trudeau took advantage of the rise of Quebec nationalism to present himself as the greatest champion of Canadian unity and the only politician who could keep the "separatists" in check. He succeeded in creating a national coalition in opposition to Quebec sovereignty and this formed the basis for almost two decades of Liberal rule.

Meanwhile, the steady decline of the British Empire forced the Conservative Party to reinvent itself, especially after the Diefenbaker era. This eventually led to the emergence of Brian Mulroney who presented himself as the new champion of Canadian unity with the strategy of accommodating the sovereigntist section of the Quebec capitalist class into the Canadian ruling class. The Mulroney coalition included the upstart Alberta oil capitalists who were accumulating enormous profits from high oil prices

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and chafing under the domination of the Canadian economy by Ontario industrialists and finance capitalists. However, the failure first of the Meech Lake Accord and then of the Charlottetown Accord shattered Mulroney's coalition and led to the decimation of the Conservative Party in 1993. The majority of Quebec Conservatives defected to form the Bloc Quebecois, while most Alberta Conservatives joined Preston Manning's Reform Party, which was little more than the revamping of the old Social Credit Party which had been led for decades by Manning's father. In the 1993 federal election, the country was balkanized, with the Reform Party dominating west of Manitoba, the liberals dominating Ontario and the Bloc Quebecois dominating in Quebec. No political party or individual emerged who could credibly lay claim to being the champion of Canadian unity (which is a euphemism for the domination of Canada by the predominately Ontario-based monopoly capitalist class).

The political system in Canada is based on the illusion of choice provided by a ruling party in power and an opposition party waiting in the wings to take over once the ruling party becomes discredited. However, in 1993 the opposition party was virtually destroyed and no party has yet emerged which is capable of playing that role. The new Conservative Party has no support in Quebec and faces extreme suspicion in Ontario. Therefore, it does not have the ability to become a ruling party. Meanwhile, the Liberal corruption crisis in Quebec, as well as the inability of the Liberals to make significant headway in the West, has also stripped the Liberal Party of the ability to form a majority government. So, the situation in Canada now is that there is neither a viable ruling party nor a viable opposition party. It does not appear that the monopoly capitalist ruling class has the ability to overcome this political crisis in the near future.

Whether the Liberals or Conservatives form the next government, it will be a short-lived government incapable of pushing a coherent agenda. Within this situation, opportunities may present themselves for the Canadian working class and people to push forward their own agenda for a sovereign and democratic Canada. However, to take advantage of these opportunities the Canadian people must reject all of the current parliamentary parties, as well as the notion that any one of them represents a lesser evil than the others.

Revolutionary Chautauqua...from page 1

That discussion, which continued during the following months, led to the highly successful cultural program at the 2005 United May Day Banquet which was presented entirely by youth. Over 100 young people attended the banquet and expressed their enthusiasm to use this year's Revolutionary Chautauqua to further advance this discussion.

Third Congress...from page 2

Indian big bourgeoisie, the Third Congress hoisted the banner of inviolability of the right of nations and peoples to self-determination.

The Third Congress resolved to work for the establishment of a Union of Workers' and Peasants' Republics of India, as the political instrument required for defending and affirming sovereignty, national rights, democratic and human rights. This is in direct contrast to the line of fascist repression of national and human rights in the name of defending the unity and integrity of India.

The Report adopted by the Third Congress concludes that the most urgent tasks to be taken up today, towards the empowerment of the working class and people, are to build and expand the Communist Party and the United Front of workers, peasants, oppressed nations, nationalities and tribal peoples, women and youth.

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