Letters

Peking And CPI (ML)

For a number of reasons I doubt the authenticity of the inner-party letter alleged to have been written by Kanu Sanyal and five others and published in *Frontier* of November 4, 1972.

(1) How could anyone within the Party, or indeed, any close observer outside it, refer to Charu Mazumdar as the General Secretary of the Party? Charu Mazumdar was always the Chairman whereas the other post was held by different people at different times.

(2) The Chinese are alleged to have said: "Lin's Guerilla War theory has no relation with political and organizational question". (See point 6, p. 15). For all I know, this kind of statement could not come from the Chinese; nor could it be endorsed by Kanu Sanyal or anyone else who has gone through or even reflected upon the different aspects of Guerilla War.

(3) When was the alleged letter written? There are two surmises: (a) Since there is no mention of any of the momentous developments within the Party during 1971, viz. split with Ashim Chatterjee and Satyanarayan Sinha, etc. the probable date would appear to be late 1970 or early 1971. However, in the course of the long-drawn trial of Kanu Sanyal and associates at Darjeeling which took place much later and was widely reported in various bourgeois newspapers, the accused vociferously defended the Party line and raised slogans like "Long live Charu Mazumdar".

(b) Alternatively, the letter was written sometime in 1972. How could it keep silent so completely over the split, Bangladesh and so on? How could it ignore the fact that from the middle of 1971 "the ultra-leftist activities" had in fact come to a virtual stop and that by the early part of this year Charu Mazumdar was himself advocating a more open-ended united front strategy? Further, the letter seems to make Charu Mazumdar the villain of the piece. If so, why should Kanu Sanyal and his co-accused in the Andhra courts go out of their way to pay homage to the departed leader after his murder at Lalbazar, as the bourgeois papers reported?

(4) How could six such eminent leaders of the Party get together and write a joint letter when they are all languishing in jail under the strictest surveillance all round? Even defence lawyers do not find it easy to meet their respective clients in due secrecy. Hence police connivance would be a necessary pre-condition. But the savage police attack on Ashim Chatterjee and associates who were also anti-CM, rules out this possibility. It is equally ruled out by the proven integrity of the six leaders.

I have no doubt that you have acted in good faith in reproducing the letter. But you ought to be a little more cautious—not only about the agents of foreign and domestic ruling classes but also about the numerous factions and faction-leaders among the Naxalites who are determined at all costs to bolster up their own line (s) even by tampering with facts.

ARANI GHOSH
Calcutta

Your introduction to the letter by a number of CP (ML) leaders says it was circulated after the arrest of Charu Mazumdar and his death in jail custody. Comrade Mazumdar was killed by the reactionary ruling class, not in jail custody but in police custody.

SONA
Calcutta

No Meeting

What happened at Mohammad Ali Park on November 24? We had organised a democratic programme of a procession to start from Mohammad Ali Park. A leaflets had already been published on the occasion of November Revolution celebrations and the programme announced in *Satyayug* on November 24. It was an open democratic rally. However, the police attacked the gathering and arrested the participants alleging that they are Naxalites. Arresting and mercilessly beating up people struggling for democratic rights shows nothing but the total bankruptcy of the government. While