

**ON UNIFICATION
BY SANTOSH RANA AND SOME OTHER COMRADES
LODGED IN WEST BENGAL JAILS**

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The article entitled "On the Problems of Unification" (July 13, 1974), while correctly indicating the dangers of liquidation, and strongly defending the idea of strengthening the CPI(ML), has made serious mistakes with regard to the process of unification and the evaluation of Comrade Charu Mazumdar. The proposal made in the article, if taken in toto, may also lead to liquidation. The authors of the article have isolated the process of unification from our party history i.e. the history of struggle between two lines in our Party. They have proposed that all the Central Committee members elected in the First Congress, i.e. the 8th Congress, should unite and if ALL of them unite and revive the CC, then they are ready to accept the revival CC as the genuine centre. What will be the position if two out of seven refuse to revive the CC? Should the CC remain defunct and paralysed until all seven revive it? This is nothing but fatalism. Unfortunately one member of the CC has joined the ruling Congress since 1970. Should the party remain paralysed till he is persuaded to come back to the CPI(ML)?

The CC should be revived by a majority of its members outside. If the majority unite and uphold a correct political line there should be no hesitation on the part of any party member to accept this revised CC as the party centre. If, even after revival of the CC by a majority of its members, some party members or units refuse to recognise it as the centre even without having any political difference or any major difference, then they are practising nothing but groupism and splittism.

Now let us see what happened in the party. After the Party Congress in 1970 the then General Secretary did not call a single CC meeting. Placing himself high above the Party and the CC and without calling any CC meeting, he issued left-sectarian calls one after another; some of which even negated the party programme. Some responsible members, particularly some PB and CC members, opposed them and demanded a CC meeting. But the General Secretary refused to convene it. By making the CC defunct he kept the entire party in a paralysed state.

He expelled many comrades, who were also slandered, and set up parallel factions in many regions. In India's war of aggression against Pakistan he took a vacillating and national-chauvinist stand. During this entire period and even for a long time afterward Comrade Soumya was his closest colleague.

By November 1971, the party faced a grave crisis. National chauvinism was running amuck, the party faced serious isolation and areas of struggle by and by collapsed one after another. Under such conditions, it was absolutely necessary to sum up the experiences, to correct the mistakes, to unify the party and hold high the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought and proletarian internationalism. It was imperative to revive the CC which the then General Secretary was trying to bury. So, there was no alternative for the majority of CC members but to call a

requisition meeting and revive the CC. No responsible party member will suggest that the CC should not have been revived till the General Secretary was convinced about the necessity and saw sense. Under such conditions in November 1971 out of seven CC members present outside (CM, Soumya, Ashim, SN, Guru Buse, Rajkishore, Mahindra) five discussed the necessity of reviving the CC and accordingly the CC meeting was convened on November 7, 1971.

The authors of "On The Problems of Unification" want to see the CC revived. But the revival has already taken place – in November 1971. If the revival of the CC be a correct step in 1974, why was it wrong in 1971? Many thanks to the majority of CC members who revived the CC. They have saved the party from liquidation. Moreover, they have not only formulated a correct Marxist-Leninist line but have also led the party in implementing it and re-integrating the party with the masses. The achievement in carrying forward the revolution by implementing the mass-line is remarkable, though not spectacular.

Comrades like Soumya and others who came to a correct line much later should have worked with the CC already revived in 1971. Instead, they formed a 'COC' as a parallel centre. It is really a regrettable position. It is also regrettable that some comrades are placing the CC revival in 1971 by a majority of the CC members at par with the 'COC' formation.

The CC has already put forward a draft Party Programme, a draft Party Constitution and a draft Self-Critical Report. It may be that there are some mistakes and shortcomings in these documents, which are basically workable. We appeal to all CPI(ML) comrades to go through these documents conscientiously, enrich them with their positive suggestions and criticisms and thus help the CC in convening the 9th Congress of the CPI(ML) soon. We find no other alternative to fight concretely against the danger of liquidation at present.

Santosh Rana and some other comrades lodged in West Bengal Jails