

EULOGY: OH COMRADE, DEAR COMRADE, OUR BELOVED COMRADE!

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You who were the light of so many of our lives. Words cannot express the grief we feel at your untimely loss. None of us can believe that your person, your oh-so-human person, is no longer with us. You who have always been there for us workers, women and youth, artists, writers, journalists, actors, musicians, academics, scientists and researchers; those of us who are national minorities, Native peoples, differently abled, and from amongst the most vulnerable in society, and your many, many, many fellow travellers.

In this regard, Comrade, I would be remiss if I did not make special mention of your dear family members, of your beloved children, each and every one of whom made you so proud, your brothers and sisters, cousins, nephews and nieces for whom you were a guide and an inspiration.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention your many second families, literally spread throughout the world, on every continent, in oh-so-many countries. And the Party children, Comrade Bains. The children are so sad for they loved you so. As for the younger generation, Comrade Bains, it has spoken for itself, as you taught them to do. You are their pride; you are their joy. They will celebrate your life in their own deeds to change the world.

Comrade Bains, the twinkle in your eyes, your mischievous smile, your beautiful artistic hands, your fine mind, your tender love for all of us they all combined to work a magic. Who could resist your purity, your sincerity, your drive to bring out the best in everyone you met, in everyone you worked with, no matter what their age, what their standing in life, what their ideas or opinions? Meeting you was like falling in love at first sight, over and over and over again, just as you too fell in love with the best in everyone, bringing out whatever they had to offer to make this world, "where tears are hung on every tree", a better place, a place in which this great humanity can realise its potential, so tragically squandered by the old forces at this time.

Who can comprehend the power of such a love? Could it be, Comrade Hardial, that this is the social love you spoke to us about so often? Is it perhaps that you personified all that is best in the striving of humankind for a new world, a world which is affirmed and does not even know the meaning of exploitation of persons by persons? This, Comrade Bains, is the new world you brought into our lives and have impelled and organised us to fight for. Billions of individuals will realise their full human

potential by participating in the lives of their collectives, by arriving at the decisions which affect their lives, and by building their own present and future themselves.

Comrade Bains, it is no wonder that your oh-so-unexpected and untimely death has caused such an outpouring of love and expression of boundless admiration. Even those of us who knew about your illness, in the little time we had, could not conceive of it taking you away from us. You fought your illness like a lion. You died, dear comrade, as you lived, facing the situation on the basis of a fighting plan to change it and urging everyone to do the same with the courage of your convictions.

Dear Comrade, we ask that you forgive our tears as we mourn your loss. Our sorrow knows no bounds. But we pledge to you today that here on in we will heed your call to not cry but to March On! We pledge to you today that we will indeed March On! We will indeed hold high the banner of our Party, the Party you spared no effort to strengthen so as to make it the worthy Canadian contingent of the international proletariat. We will March On, each one of us taking our place to turn all the successes achieved to date, by the fighting peoples in Canada and elsewhere, into lasting victory.

Dearest Comrade, even though your life was filled with many sorrows, you never once complained but marched on along your chosen path, dedicated to the cause of bringing your dream of a better world into being. You who worked so hard and devoted so much of yourself to others have acquired no material riches of any kind.

Emigration followed by political persecution separated you from your loved ones and your most precious associations in the land of your birth; the relentless mania of the reactionary ruling classes deprived you of your career as a scientist which was your passion, and of your place as a university teacher which brought you so much joy, but you marched on, absorbing the shocks without a murmur.

You faced political persecution, which brought so much hardship to you, your family members, comrades and friends you loved so dearly, by setting an example for us all, deeply appreciative of the struggle waged by the workers and people of Canada and other countries, especially the progressive and democratic forces led by our dear fraternal Party in Brazil, with Comrade Amazonas at the head, to shame the government of Canada into respecting your human and political rights.

Your life, you pointed out, was lived in two societies in transition, first in India, the land of your birth, then in Canada, the land which claimed you as its most eminent politician in the second half of this century. You were the champion of Canada's cause for renewal and for putting an end to the old

arrangements based on nineteenth-century - considerations, so as to bring forth the new out of the bosom of its working class, women and youth. This entire world is in transition; you showed us how to act in a new way so as to prepare for the twenty-first century in the manner which befits the high road of civilisation and the achievements this humanity is capable of.

What turbulent times marked your beginnings in the India of the 1940s and 1950s! What violent times when tragedies were organised or the peoples of India in the form of the partition of your homeland in 1947, fifty years ago this year. The Bengali nation and your own nation, the Punjabi nation, second and third largest respectively in the world, were torn asunder so that the British ruling class could continue to live in opulence off the blood and suffering of the peoples of South Asia. Such tragedies kindled in you the deepest commitment to the cause of freedom so as to restore the dignity of these and other nations the world over.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of partition, called formal independence, even as you struggled with your illness, you made your plans to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Naxalbari in May of this year and put forward your thesis on what is required to liberate India.

You took up the road of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, the high road of the Great October Revolution, and the cause of the peoples everywhere for freedom, independence and social justice. Your earliest political recollections include not only carrying high the red flag for the liberation of India, youngest party member, death-defying secretary of the All-India Youth Federation for the North West and worthy bearer of the nickname Leader.

An integral part of these recollections is the struggles you waged in support of the heroic Korean people fighting a life-and-death war against the aggression of the United States, carried out under the banner of the United Nations. What joy it was for you to visit the Korean homeland, the land of Kim Il Sung and his worthy descendants who represent the Korean nation and are fighting for its reunification, to bring lasting peace to their homeland and the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Throughout the 1960s and since, Comrade Bains, you were the truest friend of the African peoples fighting for independence against the colonial powers of Europe, of the peoples of Indo-China, the Middle East, Latin America and Oceania, not to mention the proletarians and peoples of Europe and the United States.

Which freedom movement does not know you, Comrade Bains? How many Canadian workers, youth and students you have aroused and provided their struggles with moral and fraternal support?

Which Marxist-Leninist Party and communist organisation has not felt your staunch proletarian internationalism and the power of the working unity and friendship you always upheld?

Your actions in support of the Cuban revolution from the moment of its triumph are a matter of public record. How pleased you were when you recently had the opportunity to climb the Sierra Maestra to Comrade Fidel Castro's Command Post and fully appreciate the glorious exploits of the Cuban people whose resistance against the U.S. imperialists forms the soul of our America? On your behalf, Comrade Bains, I express your deep appreciation for the assistance given by the Communist Party of Cuba and many many others in Cuba during your illness. The profoundly revolutionary quality of the Cuban comrades made a deep impression on you, reinforcing your efforts to support Cuba in safeguarding her independence and right to her sovereign way of life.

Comrade Bains, during your last official trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in April 1997, you delivered a militant speech on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Pyongyang Declaration. "Socialism lives in the present and in the future of humankind!" you declared. "It shall triumph!" The passion with which you spoke was such that the hall resounded with one standing ovation after another. How you captured the hearts of the Korean people when you hailed their glorious exploits and told them that the key feature of the present-day situation is the need to start afresh, basing ourselves on the successes achieved to date so as to turn these successes into lasting victory! The Korean comrades told you after your speech, "We thought you were a quiet, mild-mannered man, and it turns out you are a lion!" How right they were!

We stand before you today, Comrade Bains, to pledge to you that your platform to right the historical wrongs committed by the powers of imperial Europe and America and your goal to create the subjective conditions for the revolution of the working class and peoples of the world will find their expression in us, united as one, each of us lending our shoulder to the task at hand as best we can and know how. We take our cue from you. You engaged in practical politics so as to bring forth the best that humanity has hitherto given rise to and carry it forward.

"There is a goal humankind has set for itself," you wrote your youngest daughter when she went to India to study for a year. "It is this goal which has to be taken up. It is the goal to end poverty, disease, famine, ignorance, war, domination of one people by another, by ending the exploitation of persons by persons. This is the only real goal which thinking people can take up. Your formal education will help in taking up this goal, but there is much more to life than formal education. We receive real education by getting involved in the solution of real problems in life. The field of life is the highest school of education, and, in this respect, the greatest school is one which has the aim of ending poverty, disease, famine, ignorance, war, domination of one people by another; the school of ending exploitation of persons by persons."

Speaking about your experience as a student and a teacher and, later on, about your attempts at dealing with education in the political sense, you wrote, "What I consider most important in terms of both formal and other education is that one should not bluff one's way through. We should strive to acquire in-depth knowledge which does not come all of a sudden. Education like anything else can be acquired fast by some while others may be slower. Nonetheless, the best are those who see the value of education, the need to prepare, to equip themselves with that knowledge which is necessary to contribute to activities which will advance humankind."

Comrade Bains, we hear you. The youth hear you.

In preparing to speak to you today, what to tell you when there is so much welling in our hearts and minds, we came to the conclusion that there is time for that. Your life and work were so profound, so rich, so all-sided, so filled with that fidelity, enlightenment and power of prediction required of the human person who is marching, head high and chest out, into the twenty-first century. We will give ourselves time. In the course of time we will turn our grief into collective strength. This is who we are.

For you the Party was always the most precious thing, the main organisation necessary to prepare the material conditions on the subjective side for the coming revolutionary storms. We stand on guard for this, your party, worthy contingent of the international workers and communist movement. We stand on guard for the new quality you gave rise to, in the form of the profound revolutionary traditions and political culture that you nurtured on the soil of Canada.

Your only regret, you told your closest comrades, was that the second life you were preparing for was not to be. You planned to do significant theoretical work crucial to the international workers and communist movement; you had already begun to sum up the achievements of the twentieth century in the fields of science, philosophy, political economy and culture. Oh Dear Comrade, what a loss! It would be quite a challenge for new titans to come forward to undertake this important work.

Dear Comrade, your life-long example and your accomplishments will live in the programme of our glorious Party and the numerous mass - organisations and institutions you established and helped along. It will live in each and every one of us who loved you and admired you or simply knew enough to recognise you as an extraordinary human being.

A lion indeed! Born August 15, 1939, under the sign of the lion, into the people known as lions. Died August 24, 1997, under the sign of the lion. We all know this lion, loved this lion, and will cherish him in our hearts and minds forever.

Dearest Comrade, not long before your illness took you away from us forever, you summed up the 1997 election results in Canada, pointing out that, whereas the bourgeoisie is in a very deep crisis and has been unable to give rise to a standard bearer of any kind, the working class has its standard in the form of the Party programme which you gave us, the programme, "Stop Paying the Rich Increase Funding for Social Programmes." You also said that all the indications are here to tell us that the situation will turn around very soon, sooner than later.

Your political insight and powers of foresight, two outstanding qualities you encouraged us to acquire, never failed us in the past. We are certain that the same will be the case now.

Comrade Hardial, you died at 4:40 in the morning, just before the dawn, the dawn you loved so much, the dawn which always accompanied you into each new day. We are certain that this dawn you fought for your entire life, the dawn you yearned to see, in all its beauty of faint pinks and oranges, purples and reds, is just around the corner.

On behalf of our entire Party, our class, our women and youth, dear comrade, Farewell!

Farewell, Hardial, Farewell!

Our dearest comrade, our leader,

Farewell!