

Mazumdar's Last Writing

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WITH the death of Mr Charu Mazumdar, natural or otherwise, it is being said that the CPI (ML) movement in India, particularly in West Bengal, will gradually disappear. But some top officers of the Central Intelligence Department who came to Calcutta from Delhi shortly after the arrest of Mr Mazumdar, it is reported, held a different view.

The report they prepared on the basis of information supplied by the Special Branch of the West Bengal police and after continuous interrogation of Mr Mazumdar during his 12 days' stay in the Lalbazar lock-up is said to have pointed to the fact that Mr Mazumdar had been very much busy organising his party at an all-India level for the past two months. Somewhere in Calcutta a meeting of the Central Committee of the CPI (ML) was held in June and it was attended by leaders from different parts of the country, particularly from States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar. Mr Mazumdar who presided over the meeting, the report says, presented a new thesis to the party to develop a countrywide movement on that basis. The report, it is reliably learnt, further states that a well-organised group of CPI (ML) leaders is still active in different parts of the country and they are waiting for an opportune moment to launch "Naxalbari-like armed struggles" in different zones with renewed vigour.

What should be the guideline of the next phase of the CPI (ML) movement is clearly defined by Charu Mazumdar in his latest thesis. The thesis, published after Mr Mazumdar's death in the July 31 issue of *Deshabrati*, a Bengali mouthpiece of the CPI (ML), is said to be the last writing of Mr Mazumdar. It bears the date 9.6.72. Printed from the underground, the current issue of

Deshabrati has been sent to different newspaper offices in the city by post as it had been done on previous occasions.

Mr Mazumdar in his latest thesis urged his partymen to carry forward the task of building the Party among the "basic" masses, and to establish, on the basis of struggle, a united front with the broadest sections of the people. Mr Mazumdar in his thesis said, "A broadest united front against the Congress rule can be established."

The thesis says, "Today the 'leftist' parties are not giving any lead for struggling against the oppression the Congress is perpetrating on the ordinary people. The worker-peasant masses within these parties have resentment against their leadership. We have to carry on efforts to be united with them on the basis of united struggle. Even those who at one time practised enmity towards us will in special circumstances come forward to be united with us. We must have the largeness of mind to be united with all these forces. Largeness of mind is the quality of the communists. It is the people's interest that today demands united struggle. It is the people's interest that is the party's interest."

It further says, "The armed struggle in our country has, after reaching a stage, suffered a setback. Our task at this time is to keep the Party alive. We will have to build the party among the broad worker-peasant masses. If only we can build a politically united party we shall be able to overcome this setback, to raise the struggle to a stage still higher than before. I hope that we shall be able to achieve it within a very short period."

Mr Mazumdar concluded his thesis with a hope that a countrywide upsurge would soon develop. He says, "An upsurge is coming. A country-

wide upsurge. We must keep this upsurge in view. Then only we will have self-confidence. Before this we witnessed upsurges in one or two districts. The upsurge that is coming will be spread over a still wider area, it will be of a still higher stage than before. It has to be remembered that the progress of struggle is not evolutionary but revolutionary. If we consider the way in which the struggle under the Party's leadership is progressing and calculate on that basis, our country cannot be liberated even by 2001, what to speak of its being liberated by 1975. Since the progress and development of struggle is revolutionary, the upsurge in the coming days will no longer be confined within a small area in which it occurred yesterday and the struggle in the days ahead will be still deeper and of a still higher stage than that of the past.

"Shall we be able to provide leadership everywhere during the upsurge that is coming? Certainly not. The struggle in areas where there will be our conscious leadership will act as an example to areas where our party leadership is not present. If we are able today to accomplish the work of land reforms in some areas the work of land reforms may be done spontaneously in many areas during this revolutionary upsurge. Our conscious leadership will give birth to armed revolutionary upsurge, it is through this armed revolutionary upsurge that our leadership will be gradually established everywhere. In a short period a spontaneous resentment will develop in our country and it will ultimately take the character of a national upsurge. India is a vast country. The people are crippled by torture and exploitation. The exploiters and exploited are now living in two distinct camps and face each other. The hatred is generating among the exploited masses. They will not allow torture to continue. Their growing resentment will soon lead to spontaneous explosions in different parts of the country. When the people of this vast country will explode no reactionary

government will be able to control it."

The editorial of the July 31 issue of *Deshabrati* alleged that like Mr Saroj Dutta, Charu Mazumdar was killed. It alleged that during his 12 days' stay in Lalbazar lock-up no medical treatment was given to him. The doctors were forced to issue the death certificate, it alleged.

It said that the Indira Government would not tolerate any kind of political opposition. It is mercilessly indifferent to the starvation deaths of 50 poor and landless peasants in Malda and West Dinajpur. The Government of Mysore, it is alleged,

had recently encouraged the police to open fire on groups of young job-seekers in front of a rubber factory at Kalyani killing two instantly. The Government supported the joint police-Congress workers attack on a demonstrating crowd before the Maharashtra Assembly when it went to protest against the action of the police who forced a Harijan girl to walk naked in a Maharashtra village recently.

The July 23 issue of *Deshabrati* gave a detailed report of armed struggle under the leadership of the CPI (ML) in Haryana, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

A Tale Of Two Cities

N. K. SINGH

NEW Delhi's initiative in ordering an official inquiry into the recent riots in two of the U.P. towns, Firozabad and Varanasi, is not going to solve the crux of the problem, i.e., the fear complex which haunts the minds of the minority community. Nothing short of a judicial inquiry or an all-party parliamentary inquiry will restore the people's faith in the secular credentials of Mrs Gandhi's Government. So far the so-called 'law and order' wing of the Government is concerned, one or two suspensions and making a few petty policemen scapegoats would not do; the entire department needs a reorientation.

But the primary task before the ruling party is to purge its own organisational structure of the hidden and not-so-hidden communal elements. The irresponsible statements of the U.P. Chief Minister, who was all praise for the police, and the behaviour of some of the local Congress leaders have destroyed the faith of the people—particularly the minorities who had to face the wrath of the Provincial Armed Constabulary in Firozabad and Varanasi between June 16 and 19—not only in the ad-

ministration but also in the party in power.

As it has become pretty clear now, the riots in Firozabad and Varanasi were provoked, instigated and supported by the police and the PAC on duty there and not merely the handiwork of communal forces on either side. Even a hurried tour of the torn towns and a study of the state of affairs will be enough to confirm this view-point.

Thirty-two persons (eleven in Varanasi and 21 in Firozabad) are officially reported to have been killed in the riots and property worth several lakhs of rupees destroyed or looted. Non-official sources put the death toll at 75—60 in Firozabad and 15 in Varanasi, 66 either by the PAC bullets or by the knife of some assassins who, in most cases, were protected by those who were charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

Nearly 300 shops, workshops, small factories, houses and thatched huts of the poor—two hundred of them in Firozabad—were burnt down.

In Firozabad, the majestic three-storeyed Jama Masjid was put on fire along with the aged, paralytic