

Press statements General Strike-1974 (AIRF File No. 160-B-IX)

This PDF file contains scans of 61 pages of press statements in English and Hindi written between March – June 1974. These statements have been issued by All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), National Coordination Committee For Railwaymen's Struggle (NCCRS).

The press releases concern the ground reports Railway strike of 1974 and its withdrawal, the repression by authorities and dismissal of railway workers, meetings and delegations of opposition political parties, solidarity of national trade unions etc

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ALL INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

125-E, Babar Road
New Delhi - 1

AIRF/160-B/

June 10, 1974

PRESS STATEMENT

The railway strike was unilaterally called off by the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle on May 17, 1974 and workers were asked to resume duty on May 28 at 6.00 a.m. Before the strike had been called off, there were public statements made by the President, the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister that there would be no victimisation of railwaymen and that talks on the railwaymen's demands would commence as soon as the strike had been called off.

Fifteen days after calling off of the strike, it is becoming clear that the Government has no intention of honouring its public commitment. The workers are still being arrested. Thousands of those arrested are not being released. All those who participated in the strike have been given a break in service. Over 50,000 workmen have been removed and dismissed from service. And there is no sign of any talks so far.

The Government which told the railwaymen that the Third Pay Commission's recommendations were the last word as far as railwaymen's wages etc. are concerned, has now announced a 40 to 60 per cent increase in the emoluments of the Armed Forces personnel over and above the recommendations of the same Pay Commission. Coming in the wake of the railway strike in which Army was used against the railwaymen, the wage increase for the Armymen looks ominous.

The Working Committee of the A.I.R.F. meeting in Delhi on June 8 and 9 considered the post-strike situation. Members from all railways were of the view that there could be no normalcy on the Railways unless the Government restored normalcy in its approach to the workers and their problems.

The A.I.R.F. has decided to take all necessary steps to counter the Railway Ministry's negative and hostile attitude towards the railwaymen. A special Convention will be held in July to be followed by similar convocations of Zonal unions. The AIRF will make common cause to provide every necessary assistance to those whose services have been terminated. If the Government attempts to starve the workers into submission, that will

We are briefing all international trade unions about the strike and post-strike situation, and requesting them to address the Government of India directly and through the governments of their respective countries to adopt civilised norms of behaviour in dealing with the railway workers. We are also lodging a formal complaint with the International Labour Organisation on the suppression of trade union rights in India in the context of the railway strike.

The working committee has also proposed a meeting of all central organisations and national federations of labour in India to decide the workers' response to the Government's anti-labour policy. I am addressing a letter to all concerned organisations in this regard.

The N.C.C.R.S. decision to observe Anti-Victimisation Day has been endorsed by the Working Committee. There will be nation-wide demonstrations, marches, rallies organised on that day.

The N.I.R.F. Working Committee has adopted a resolution thanking all those who supported the railwaymen's struggle, especially, trade unions, political parties, youth and women's bodies, journalists and other non people who in many parts of the country provided shelter to the striking railwaymen and protected them from repression.

Geor Fernandes
Geor Fernandes
President.

Gram : RAILWAYMEN

PHONE: 40917

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Convenor:
George Fernandes

125-B, Babar Road
New Delhi.

Dated June 7, 1964

PRESS RELEASE

The Action Committee of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle met in New Delhi this afternoon, and reviewed the situation on the Railways.

According to information received by the Action Committee, 1,00,000 permanent workmen have been removed or taken out of service for participating in the strike. Nearly 75,000 casual and substitute workmen have not been re-employed. About 10,000 workers are still languishing in prisons all over the country, and arrests of railwaymen are continuing on all zonal railways.

Almost 15,00,000 workmen who participated in the strike have been given a break-in-service and treated as new recruits.

The Committee condemned the vindictive attitude of the Government towards the railwaymen and demanded that the Government fulfil its public pledge that there will be no victimisation of railwaymen for participating in the strike.


The Committee warned the Government that there will be no normalcy on the Railways unless the Government first restored normalcy by withdrawing all penal action.

The Action Committee has given a call to railwaymen all over the country to observe June 18 as Anti-Victimisation Day. Meetings, demonstrations, dharnas and other forms of protest will be organised on a massive scale on that day. Help and cooperation of other sections of the working people will be sought on the occasion.

A full meeting of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle has been held on June 25 in New Delhi. The meeting will take up the developments during and since the strike and discuss the future course of action.

The Action Committee has taken note of the magnificent morale of the railwaymen and the fighting spirit displayed by them all over the country. It has urged the NCCRS units on all the Railways to take steps to provide necessary legal and monetary help to the workers.

To


George Fernandes
Convenor

Gram: RAILWAYMEN

PHONE: 40947

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Convenor

To _____

सोशलिस्ट पार्टी,
केन्द्रीय कार्यालय,

१६-१७ विठ्ठलभाई पेट भवन,
रफ़ी मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-११०००१
दिनांक मई २०, १९७४

सभी राज्याजिवा संत्रियों के नाम

मित्र साथी,

रेल मजदूरों का संघर्ष वास्तव में जाड़े फनाडीस की गिरफ्तारी के बाद ३ मई को ही आरम्भ हो गया था। आज उसका अठारहवां दिन है और उनकी राष्ट्रव्यापी हड़ताल को तेरह दिन हो गये हैं। विरोधी दलों द्वारा सन्धन, संबन्धीय विरोधी दलों द्वारा अविश्वास प्रस्ताव और अन्य उपायों से सरकार पर दबाव डालने के प्रयास और देश भर के सम्पूर्ण जनतकशकों द्वारा अद्वितीय हड़ताल के बावजूद सरकार ने रेल मजदूरों के दमन की नीति नहीं छोड़ी है।

रेल मजदूरों की वास्तवों में आतंक फैलाकर और ३० हजार से अधिक लोगों को बन्दी बनाकर, सरकार हड़ताल को ख़ुलना चाहती थी किन्तु सफल नहीं हुई है।

सरकार की नीति के विरोध में सो.पा. कार्यकर्ता भी बड़ी संख्या में फूड़े गये हैं जिनमें राष्ट्रीय सर्वांगीण अध्यक्ष श्री हरभजन सिंह, जमुना प्रसाद शास्त्री, और लखनलाल कपूर भी हैं और महाराष्ट्र की नेता श्रीमती मृणाल गोरे, वसंत खनोलकर और जान्नाथ यादव भी। सरकार के आतंक का हमें पूरी ताकत से ख़्काबला करना है। इसके लिये नीचे लिखा कार्यक्रम पूरा करना चाहिये।

१. सरकार का यह ठठठठ प्रचार की हड़ताल सपजोर हो रही है, फाँ, दीवार पर लिखे नारों इत्यादि को फुठलाना अवश्य जरूरी है।

२. रेल मजदूरों को इ. आन्न और अन्य आवश्यक वस्तुएं दिलाने के लिये नागरिक सर्वांगीण गर्तना करनी चाहिये जो इन वस्तुओं को संग्रह करें।


३. अगले दस दिन तक और विशेषकर २४, २५ और २६ मई को कलेक्टरों और एस०डी एम० आदि के कार्यालयों में धरान और धरने करने चाहिये जिनमें कानून सिकनी और धारा १४४ तोड़ना भी शामिल होगा।

४. अधिवक्ताओं को लेकर रेल मजदूरों के लिये सुरक्षा सर्वांगीण बनानी चाहिये जो अदालतों में उनके मुकदमें लड़ें।

५. स्थानीय स्तरों पर बन्द, सांकेतिक हड़तालों आदि का आयोजन करना चाहिये ताकि सभ्य आने पर मजदूरों संघों की मदद से अनिश्चित आप हड़ताल हो।

६. जो थोड़े बहुत मजदूर अभी काम पर हैं उनका बाहर निकालना चाहिये।

हम सभी कार्यों में अन्य दलों और मजदूर संघों के साथ सहयोग करके प्रतिरोधी कार्यक्रम को अधिकतम शक्तिशाली बनाया चाहिये और इसको निरन्तर चलाना चाहिये।

आपका साथी,

(सुरेन्द्र मोहन)
महासत्री

SOCIALIST PARTY
Central Office

16/17 Vithalbai Patel House,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi
New Delhi
May 20, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The Socialist Party has given a call to all Party units to organise peaceful gheraos and dharnas before Collectors' and SDMs' offices on May 24, 25, and 26, in protest against the Government's continued terror tactics against railwaymen and their families and its refusal even to negotiate the demands of the railwaymen.

A circular issued today in this behalf by Party General Secretary Mr. Surendra Mohan, explains that the dharnas and gheraos which would include defiance of prohibitory orders will be organised to intensify the people's stir against the anti-working class policies of the government; ~~to~~ said.

Party units have also been directed to help set up citizens' committees for collection of foodgrains and other essential commodities for the striking railwaymen.

The circular says that the party should strive to dovetail, collate or synchronise its activities with those of other parties and trade unions supporting the railwaymen's struggles.

Releasing the party's decision to the press, Mr. Surendra Mohan said he also felt that a meeting of left and radical parties to discuss the Government's blatant attack on civil liberties, the principle of collective bargaining and rights of trade unions was now overdue. He/ said that efforts were being made to convene it to formulate an effectively militant programme to teach the Government a lesson.

Surendra Mohan
Surendra Mohan
General Secretary

सोशलिस्ट पार्टी,
केन्द्रीय कार्यालय,

२६-२७ विट्ठलभाई पटेल भवन,
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दिनांक मई २०, १९७४

सभी राज्याजिमा मंत्रियों के नाम :

प्रिय साथी,

रेल मजदूरों का संघर्ष वास्तव में जाजे फनडीस की गिरफ्तारी के बाद ३ मई को ही आरम्भ हो गया था। आज उसका अठारहवां दिन है और उनकी राष्ट्रव्यापी हड़ताल को तेरह दिन हो गये हैं। विरोधी दलों द्वारा समर्थन, संसदीय विरोधी दलों द्वारा अविश्वास प्रस्ताव और अन्य उपायों से सरकार पर दबाव डालने के प्रयास और देश भर के सम्पूर्ण नेहनतकश वर्ग द्वारा अद्वितीय हड़ताल के बावजूद सरकार ने रेल मजदूरों के दमन की नीति नहीं छोड़ी है।

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सरकार की नीति के विरोध में सो.पा. कार्यकर्ता भी बड़ी संख्या में फड़े गये हैं जिनमें राष्ट्रीय समिति के सदस्य श्री हरमजन सिंह, जमुना प्रसाद शास्त्री, और लखनवात कपूर भी हैं और महाराष्ट्र की नेता श्रीपती मृणाल गोरे, वसंत खनोलकर और जान्नाथ यादव भी हैं। सरकार के लातक का हमें पूरी ताकत से फुकाबला करना है। इसके लिये नीचे लिखा कार्यक्रम पुरा करना चाहिये।

१. सरकार का यह ठट्ठक प्रचार की हड़ताल कमजोर हो रही है, फ्यों, दीवार पर लिखे नारों इत्यादि द्वारा फुठलाना अबर जरूरी है।

२. रेल मजदूरों को लाथान और अन्य आवश्यक वस्तुएं दिलाने के लिये नारिक समितियां गठित करनी चाहिये जो इन वस्तुओं को संग्रह करें।

३. जाले दस दिन तक और विशेषकर २४, २५ और २६ मई को कलेक्टरों और एस०डी एस० आदि के कार्यालयों पर घेराव और धरने करने चाहिये जिनमें कानून सिकनी और धारा १४४ तोड़ना भी शामिल होगा।

४. अधिनवताओं को लेकर रेल मजदूरों के लिये सुरक्षा समितियां बनानी चाहिये जो अदालतों में उनके फुदमें लें।

५. स्थानीय स्तरों पर बन्द, सांकेतिक हड़तालों आदि का आयोजन करना चाहिये ताकि समय आने पर मजदूरों संघों की मदद से अनिश्चित आम हड़ताल हो।

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आपका साथी,

(सुरेन्द्र मोहन)

महामंत्री

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E, Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 19, 1974

Press Release

Reports received by the NCCRS headquarters during the past 24 hours give complete lie to the claims of the railway authorities that services are returning to normalcy. On the contrary, workers who were taken to work at the bayonet point have once again come out at Delhi, Mughal Sarai, Kharagpur, Igatpuri, Sabarmati, Ajmer and other key centres.

The railways have totally failed to maintain even the movement of foodgrains, coal and petroleum which they have been straining to do.

We have received telegram from several industrial units from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana that they have to lay off thousands of workers because of lack of coal, lubricating oil and other raw materials.

Dock workers' union leaders have sent us messages that work in all major and minor ports of India is at a standstill because of the railway strike. This is costing the country daily several crores of rupees in foreign exchange.

Power houses in Haryana, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of closure and several cement units have already shut down.

A spokesman of the NCCRS said that local action committees of the NCCRS have sent innumerable telegrams stating that the strike in their areas is complete despite all government efforts at repression. Workers morale is high and they are fighting with the firm conviction that they will win this struggle. Divisional mechanical engineers, Assistant Mechanical Engineers and other senior officials are themselves driving the trains and their relations have been to work at booth windows and paid huge amount of money for what is termed as out of pocket expenses.

The NCCRS spokesman warned the travelling public not to travel in trains that are being operated by inexperienced and untrained personnel. He said that the many derailments reported in the press were due to the fact that gangmen and keymen who daily maintain the railway lines were on strike. The track in many places is in a bad shape, and there will be many more derailments in the coming days with the gangmen staying away from work.

2. Mr. P.K. Barya and Mr. H.S. Chaudhary, Secretary General and Asstt. Secretary General, respectively of the All India Loco Running Staff Association have addressed an appeal from Tihar Jail to all Loco Running Staff to intensify their struggle and not to be misled by the propaganda of the agents of the Railway Board who have been trying to sabotage the struggle from the beginning.

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P. K. Barya

National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 19, 1974

Press Release

The Action Committee salutes the brave railwaymen who are valiantly carrying on their struggle for the last 12 days against heavy odds. Women and Children of railwaymen are also showing great heroism in facing the repression let loose by the Government. We welcome the efforts of the various political parties in Parliament who met the Prime Minister yesterday to find out a solution to the present deadlock. They have expressed their full support for our struggle. We also welcome the efforts made by the leaders of Central Trade Union Organisation in this respect.

After giving full consideration to the various developments and assessing the situation, the Action Committee has come to the conclusion that the Railwaymen should remain firm and continue their struggle and defeat all attempts of government to crush our great movement. A determined struggle is bound to break the adamancy of the government. The strike shall therefore continue in full vigour.

We urge upon the Railwaymen, workers and people to support the solidarity action and join in mass programmes of Anti-Repression Day of 21st May.

M. J. Chiz
9/4/74
For Action Committee

16/17 Vithalbhai Patel House,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi
May 19, 1974

Press Release

Shri S.M. Joshi, Shri P. Ramamurthy, Shri Dattopant Thengadi, M.P., Shri S.M. Banerji, M.P., Shri Madhu Limaye, MP., and Shri Madhu Dandavate, M.P. have issued the following statement:-

"The Government and the Railway administration in their attempt to crush the railway strike and force the railwaymen into submission are resorting to brutal repression in total disregard of all laws and human canons of civilized behaviour.

"The permanent railway employees are dismissed by officers below the rank of appointing authorities. There are indiscriminate and unwarranted threats of eviction and in many cases the railway employees are forcibly thrown out of their quarters. The employees arrested in connection with the strike are put in jail custody along with criminals and they are denied facilities of proper food and interviews with family members.

"The women folk ~~xxxx~~ from the families of arrested employees are harassed and mercilessly beaten.

"We condemn this reign of terror and demand that government must put an end to this repression. We warn the government that their terror tactics will not help the smooth running of the railways, - the life line of the nation, without which the economy of the country cannot be sustained. The responsibility of such consequences will fall squarely on the shoulders of the Government.

"We exhort the workers, who face the threat of evictions and dismissals to seek vacation of these unjust orders ~~xxxxxx~~ through the courts and also resist these acts of injustice peacefully but in a determined manner.

"We appeal to the people in general and democratically minded lawyers in particular to help the railway employees in their heroic struggle against injustice and repression".

(1) 1 1/2
Office Secretary

National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 18, 1974

Press Release

According to the information received by telephone telegrams and special couriers, the situation on various railways has further deteriorated, contrary to the Government's oft-repeated claims that it has been improving. A message from the Eastern Railway Unions, received through Mr. Bishtu Roychaudhary, says that the morale of the workers is high and that strike situation is excellent. The Eastern Railwaymen are certain that they will have no difficulty in continuing the strike.

Telephonic messages from Jaipur, Bikaner, and Jodhpur report that the entire rail system in Rajasthan including Northern and Western railway is paralysed. No work is being done in places like Churu, Bikaner, Jaipur, Hanumangarh, Ganga Nagar, Jodhpur and Kota. Prof. Kedarnath Sharma, MLA who toured these places has strongly refuted the government claim of situation returning to normalcy.

Telegrams from Gorakhpur and Katihar has sent the report that the NE Railway strike situation is satisfactory. Reports from Bareilly and Mailani confirm this message.

Similar reports have come regarding the working of the NF railway where all loco sheds are paralysed.

Reports from Ahmedabad, Ratlam and Rajkot claim that 90 to 95 per cent railway workers are still on strike and has been resisting the atrocities committed by the authorities on railway workers in the colonies.

Similar reports have come from Central and South Central Railway where the strike situation is excellent. This is so despite the fact that all workers of all the railway unions in these zones have been put under arrest.

Southern and S.E. Railway systems are more or less paralysed with Bhojo and Bhojudi stations of S.E. Railways which are the feeding points for Steel Plants are entirely paralysed. There is complete stoppage of work in Agra, Chakradarpur, Howrah and Kharagpur.

In Eastern Railway Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, and the Danapur divisions as well as Moghul sarai yard are completely paralysed.

Southern and South Central including Vijayawada, Hubli, and other divisions are completely paralysed.

All workshops in all zonal railways as well as the three production units at Chittaranjan, Varanasi and Perambur and completely closed.

Repressive measures are continuing including eviction and removal from service in huge numbers in thousands. Not only that the employees have been compelled to sign a statement when they go to collect their wage for the last month they worked.

Opposition Leaders Meet
Prime Minister

May 18, 1974

Subject: Memorandum to the Prime Minister
regarding the settlement of railway strike

Dear Prime Minister,

We the following leaders of the Opposition parties in the Parliament submit the following suggestions in connection with the Strike of Railwaymen:

1. We request that the Government should not adopt a rigid attitude and arrive at an honourable settlement with the representatives of railwaymen.
2. With this end in view the railwaymen's dispute should be immediately brought to the negotiating table and talks should be resumed with the Action Committee of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle.
3. Some of us have been witnesses to unwarranted cruelties against railway employees, including harrasment of women; threats of eviction, mass arrests and victimisation. We demand that immediate steps should be taken to end this repression.
4. We feel that if these steps are taken promptly, atmosphere conducive to breaking the present deadlock in railways can be created.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- S.N. Mishra (Cong-0)
Bhupesh Gupta)
Hiren Mukherji) CPI
Jyotirmaya Bose)
Samar Mukherji) CPI(M)
Tridip Chaudhary (RSP)
Era Chezhiyan (DMK)
Digvijay Narain Singh (Cong-0)
Jagannath Rao Joshi (JS)
Rabi Ray (SSP)
Madhu Dandavate (SP)

(These Opposition leaders were present during discussions with the following Ministers)

1. Smt. Indira Gandhi (Prime Minister)
2. Shri Jagjivan Ram
3. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed
4. S. Swaran Singh
5. Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit
6. Shri L.N. Mishra
7. I.K. Gujral
8. Shri Om Mehta

Madhu Dandavate

The discussions on strike situation took place at the

May 17, 1974

Meeting of the Opposition Party leaders

The following members were present:-

1. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav (BKL)
2. Shri Tridip Chaudhary (RSP)
3. Shri D.B. Thengadi (N.S.)
4. Shri S.N. Mishra (Cong-O)
5. Shri Jagannathrao Joshi (JS)
6. Shri Samar Mukherji (CPI-M)
7. Shri Era Chezhiyan (DMK)
8. Shri Madhu Dandavate (SP)
9. Shri Samar Guha (SP)
10. Shri Raj Narain (SSP)
11. Shri Dig Vijay Narain Singh (Cong-O)
12. Shri T.K. Srinivasan (DMK)

The meeting of the Opposition parties in Parliament held on May 16, had decided that the leaders of the Opposition parties should see the Prime Minister on May 17, to discuss with her the railway strike situation.

On the basis of this decision the Prime Minister's office was informed immediately about the desire of the Opposition leaders to see the Prime Minister on May 17.

However leaders of the Opposition were informed this afternoon that there was no possibility of a meeting with the Prime Minister on May 17 and no indication ~~about such a meeting~~ could be given about such a meeting even on May 18.

The meeting expressed its unhappiness about this development and felt that this never had happened in the past and would not help in strengthening the democratic norms. They ^{felt} particularly unhappy even in such a grave crisis ^{that} the necessary atmosphere conducive to the solution was not being created.

Madhu Dandavate

दिनांक मई १७, १९७४

डटे रही ।

डटे रहो ।

डटे रहो ।

हड़ताली सार्थियों,

आज हमारी हड़ताल २०वें दिन में है । भारत के कोने कोने में हड़ताल जोर शोर से जारी है । २५ हजार से अधिक रेल कर्मचारी जेल में हैं । लाखों हड़ताल पर हैं । सरकार की दमन नीति के बावजूद, रेडियो के फूटे प्रसार के बावजूद, नौकरी से निकालने की धमकियों के बावजूद और पुलिस द्वारा रेल कर्मचारियों के परिवारों पर दमन चक्र के बावजूद आज भी रेल कर्मचारी अपनी जायज मांगों को हासिल करने के लिये संघर्षशील है ।

अतः सार्थियों आपसे यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि जब तक हमारी न्यायसात मांगें पूरी नहीं हो जाती, हड़ताल जारी रहेगी ।

दिल्ली हरिया नीतरोज संघर्ष समिति

Central Trade Union Organisations' Meeting

For Favour of Publication

A meeting of Central Trade Union Organisations was held here today to discuss the situation with regards to the Railway strike and has adopted the following resolutions :

1. Anti-repression Day on 21st May

This meeting of the Central Trade Union organisations warmly congratulates the working class of the whole country who have magnificently responded to their call for all India strike on 15th of this month in solidarity with and in support of the railwayworkersson strike.

The Central organisations are proud to point out that this is the first All India Strike action that has taken place in the history of the country and was so successful despite the determined efforts made by the Government, the ruling party and its front organisations to prevent the workers from joining the solidarity action. That their efforts miserably failed is a measure of the total isolation of the Government from the entire working class in regard to its repressive policy and terror tactics towards the railway workers with a view to crushing their strike.

The meeting endorses the stand taken by the Action Committee of the NCCRS that negotiations must be resumed without any preconditions.

The meeting calls upon the Government to draw the proper lessons for this massive working class action of 15th May and urges upon it to resume negotiations without conditions, even at this late hour.

The meeting warns the government that its strong arm tactics will not pay it in the long run.

The meeting directs all its affiliates to continuously joint demonstrations of workers condemning the repression and terror let loose on the workers in the colonies through unprecedented massive arrests, forcing the workers to give up strikes on point of bayonet, depriving them of their rations, and it calls upon them to fraternise with railway workers in all possible ways.

This meeting urges upon all its affiliates and other trade unions to jointly organise ~~an~~ 21st of this month as anti-repression day and hold massive rallies in Delhi, and other metropolitan cities and important centres to mobilise public opinion to prevent government's repression and to compel it to have negotiated settlement.

~~The meeting~~

2. Appeal to leaders on Hunger strike

This meeting is anxious about the hunger strike undertaken by members of the Action Committee and other leaders of the striking workers in various jails in protest against the ill-treatment meted out to and harrassment of railway workers and their families, particularly in the colonies. While the meeting is

able to appreciate the spirit behind the hunger strike, it would appeal to them to give up the hunger strike as all central trade unions have now resolved once again to mobilise public opinion against such harassment.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the AITUC, CITU, HMS, HMF, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani), Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. and x

Comrade P. Ramamurthy, General Secretary of the CITU was in the Chair. Mr. D. Thengadi of the BMS, Y.D. Sharma, and T.N. Sidhanth of the AITUC, Tridip Kumar Chaudhary, MP of the UTUC, Prithish Chanda of the UTUC(Lenin Sarani), Ghanasm Sinha, CITU, Mr. V.P. Singh of HMF and Brij Mohan Toofan of HMS. attended the meeting. Others present were Sushil Bhattacharya, UTUC, Bhagvan Singh, UTUC and Om Prakash Singh of BMS.



Priya Gupta
For Action Committee
NCCRS

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road, New Delhi
May 16, 1974

Press Release

The strike of Indian railwaymen enters the 9th day. The Government continues to remain adamant and there are as yet no visible signs about resumption of negotiations inspite of repeated demands made by the Action Committee. It appears in the newspapers that the President of India has discussed with the Prime Minister and some of her Cabinet colleagues about the strike situation and has advised the Government to adopt a flexible approach and start negotiation without any precondition. The Action Committee welcomes this and hopes that this wiser counsels will prevail over the Government and there shall be an early resumption of negotiations.


The workers of India have demonstrated their sympathy and solidarity by observing an All India industrial strike on 15th May. This strike has been a grand success. Practically all the industrial establishments, services and works remained closed on this day and the life of industrial India came to a standst as a mark of protest against the Government's anti-labour policy. This strike further developed into a bundh in some important cities, on account of the spontaneous cooperation of the people who made a common cause with the workers.

After this unique and unprecedented National industrial action, the Railwaymen's struggle enters into a new phase. The Action Committee has called today a meeting of leaders of Central Labour Organisations with a view to discuss further course of action in support of the struggle. This will be followed by a meeting with the leaders of various political parties in Parliament.

In the meantime the Action Committee expresses its regrets to Indian people for the great inconvenience that is being caused to them on account of the indefinite prolongation of the railway strike. We hope that the people will appreciate that by refusing to consider our offer for negotiations the Government has left us with no other option but to continue our countrywide strike.

The Government is trying to run some trains by the help of Territorial Army, military personnel, trainees, retired personnel etc. They are also trying to push some strikers back into the work at the point of bayonet or by other repressive measures. These methods will not be able to bring any normalcy to railway working.

To the railwaymen, our appeal is that they should continue with unflinching courage their heroic battle against Government's brutal repression. They have got no other way than to continue their valiant struggle with greater determination and courage due to callous and recalcitrant attitude of the Government.


Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

Camp: Tihar Jail
May 16, 1974

Press Release

The railway workers and others detained in Tihar Jail Prison in connection with the railway strike met this morning and expressed their anxiety and concern over the hunger strike of Com: George Fernandes in prison, which has entered its fourth day. The hunger strike it is understood is against the repression let loose by the government on the railwaymen and their families to ~~xxxxxx~~ break the strike. The government has thrown away all the democratic norms and adopted fascist measures. Hunger strike can only bring moral pressure on the government but we feel that the government is not amenable to such moral pressures when it has decided to act in a fascist way. The railway workers and their family members are not alone in facing the repression and brutality and the entire working class have come to their support by staging one day general strike on 15th May. Many political leaders and mass organisations have expressed their support to the railwaymen's struggle and condemned the repressive policy of the government.

In view of the solidarity expressed by the entire working class and democratic masses of the country to the railwaymen's struggle, we are sure that the mounting pressure of the working class and democratic masses will force the government to return to the path of sanity and reason.

In these circumstances we appeal to Comrade George Fernandes to end his hunger strike as we have full faith in the united struggle of the working class and democratic masses which ~~gix~~ alone can ~~gix~~ force the government to give up its repressive policy and come to a just settlement with the railway workers.

16-5-74

1. Sd/- Srikrishna
2. M.P. Datta
3. Hazara Singh
4. Daya Shankar
5. Tej Ram Dogre
6. B.D. Joshi

on behalf of the 346 detainees in Tihar jail

N.C.C.R.S.

C/o Tihar Jail
New Delhi
May 16, 1974

Press Release

Mr. George Fernandes, convener of the NCCRS has issued the following statement from the Tihar Jail.

My thanks and greetings to all those workers and their organisations who have given such a magnificent response to the call for a day's strike all over the country on 15th May in support of the railwaymen's struggle.

From all indications it appears that the government has not yet learnt its lessons and is still hoping to suppress the railwaymen's struggle.

For the working classes and toiling masses there is now no alternative but to fight back the government's brutal onslaught against the working class movement.

I would appeal to all trade unions, youth and student organisations, kisan and women's bodies and all other democratic organisations in the country to intensify their supporting actions through a series of demonstrations, pickettings, and other forms of effective and militant protests all over the country till the railwaymen's dispute is settled



George Fernandes



For Action Committee

2. According to the report received from jail by the office of the NCCRS, a medical examination of the four hunger striking leaders in the Tihar Jail, conducted at 10 a.m. today has shown that they have lost about 4 kg weight. These comrades are satisfied with their action but have been expressing great distress on the continued terrorism that the government is perpetrating against the strikers and their families. However they feel that their hunger strike action undertaken against the fascist methods of the Government shall focus effectively the public opinion against the government's terror tactics.

Over a hundred prisoners in the Tihar jail have declared that unless the terrorism of the government came to an end they will also be compelled to launch an indefinite hunger strike.



Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

12/33 Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 15, 1974

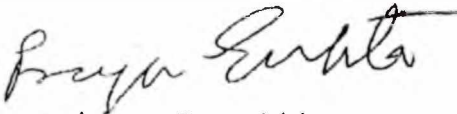
Press Release

The Action Committee greet heartily the working class and democratic people of India for the unique demonstration of solidarity and sacrifice that they have done today by observing successfully nation-wide one day general strike.

This opens a golden page in Indian trade union history. The brotherhood of Indian working class has been demonstrated today in an unmistakable manner.

On this great day, taking inspiration from this solidarity of Indian workers, let the railwaymen rededicate themselves to continue to fight for the cause of workers' unity and their struggle against all anti-labour policies and repressive measures. This gigantic struggle will go on till any honourable settlement is achieved.

We are confident that the solidarity shown today by the working class of India will prove to be a source of great encouragement amidst the sufferings which are imposed on railwaymen by the callous government.


for Action Committee

Members of the Action Committee of the NCCRS

1. Comrade George Fernandes
2. " J.P. Choubey
3. " Priya Gupta
4. " Samar Mukherji
5. " Narsimha Chakravarthy
6. " K.P. Ramaswamy
7. " N.S. Bhangoo
8. " G.S. Gokhale
9. " M.M. Phatak
10. " H.S. Chaudhuri
11. " S.K. Dhar
12. " Smt. Parvathi Krishnan
13. " Srikrishna

National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle

125E Babar Road, New Delhi
May 15, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The legal aid committee of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle said that the ~~xxxx~~ action of illegal threat of eviction of quarters of railwaymen is in contravention of the only applicable law i.e. public premises (unauthorised) eviction act of 1971. No other authority except as provided under the Act could ask the railwaymen or his family members, to vacate the premises after serving showcause and holding inquiry as provided. The police without such inquiry as contemplated under the Act cannot act in fascist method.

NCCRS

About ten thousand persons rallied and ~~xxx~~ a mammoth gathering was addressed by Socialist Party leader Shri Tara Chand Sethi, Member National Committee of HMS, Shri Raj Kumar Vohra, CPI leader Prof. Pritam Jha, CPI(M) leader and workers of sugar Mills are all on strike. All shops were closed till 1 p.m. The 4000 railwaymen (3000 in Locoshed and 1000 in yard) at Saharanpur are still on strike and the whole of Saharanpur is paralysed.

North East Frontier Railway still wholly paralysed Telephone Exchange taken over by military including Workshops at Bongaigaon, Dibrugarh and Pandu.

North Eastern Railway except Lucknow all other places like Izatnagar, Barcilly, Samastipur, Gorakhpur - all paralysed - including the workshops at Gorakhpur Izatnagar and Samastipur.

Eastern railway including workshops at Jamalpur, Kemchrapara and Lillooah completely paralysed

South eastern railway - Howrah to Kharagpur completely paralysed.

Central and Western Railway - Bombay completely paralysed.

Madras in Southern Railway completely paralysed so is all places in Southern railway

From Chaibasa by a telegram it is reported that on 13th May 74 people were arrested and were not given food and drinking water for over 36 hours.

Mr. Priya Gupta on behalf of the NCCRS and General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, welcomed the advice given by the President to the Prime Minister and said that the President has fulfilled his expectations as a founder leader of the railwaymen's movement. He expressed the hope that the Prime Minister will follow the President's advise.

Mr. Priya Gupta also expressed gratitude to the leaders of the Opposition parties for having called on the President and ~~seeking~~ his intervention.

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road
New Delhi
May 14, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The heroic strike of Railwaymen enters 7th day, the strike continues in an indefatigable manner. The repression is on the increase and still greater is the determination of the railwaymen to carry on the struggle as long as it is necessary to do so.

Today two members of the Action Committee Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan, MP and Shri Srikrishna have been arrested. The Action Committee strongly condemns these arrests as ill-advised and provocative.

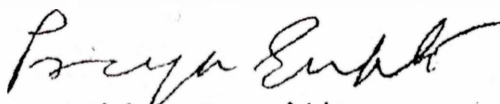
The question of withdrawal of the struggle as a pre-condition for negotiations is out of question. The ball is now in the court of Government and it is for the Prime Minister to decide whether to continue the present confrontation or resume negotiations with the Action Committee with a view to find out the solution from the present deadlock.

On the 15th May, the entire working class of India is observing an All India Strike. This unique and unprecedented gesture of solidarity and sacrifice opens a golden page in Indian trade union history. This is a rare tribute to Railwaymen's movement. If this does not bring the government of India to the senses then one will have to conclude that the government has lost all senses.

There are some reports in the press regarding the difference of opinion in the modality of negotiations. The Action Committee has already made its position clear that the negotiation should be with the full committee and not a part of it. The Committee stands united as one body and neither the prison walls nor any difference of politicians can break this solid unity.

The Railwaymen's struggle has now come to a stage when we feel a call can be made to legal and medical profession for extending their generous hand of help to railwaymen being detained under false charges, evicted from their lawful dwelling place or subjected to summary trials and for those who are beaten by brutal attack of policemen and even military personnel. The Action Committee hopes that these professions will not be wanting in extending their support.

We once again appeal to the railwaymen to maintain their high morale and unity and appeal to the people to exert their pressure on the government to resume negotiations and remove the present deadlock.


For Action Committee

16/17 Vithalbhai Patel House,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi
May 13, 1974

For Favour of publication

Six women public workers including Mrs. Bibha Ghosh Goswami M.P., Mrs. Champa Limaye, Mrs. Pramila Dandavate, Mrs. Lella Fernandes, Prof. Mrs. Menon and Miss Manju Mathur visited Kishanganj railway colony yesterday evening and were told of an incident of molestation of a woman, Mrs. Lalita Devi, wife of a peon, by policemen.

Commenting on this incident in a statement issued here today, they expressed shock that even in the reign of a woman Prime Minister, such bestial behaviour was countenanced by the Government.

They also learnt that Mr. Parameswaran, General Manager of Northern Railway had threatened the striking employees of forcible evictions from their quarters. The authorities had also warned the employees that their rations shall be withheld.

According to the report of the women's delegation, the SHO of Sarai Rehilla Police Station has been intimidating and harassing the residents of the colony, disturbing their sleep and interfering in their daily lives. Use of public latrines is also barred to the residents, they said.

The statement added, "The railwaymen in the colony are being denied personal dignity, respect for the honour of their women and physical security. In fact, they are being subjected to the worst kind of intimidation, even at the cost of human decency. Such brutal actions of the Government to suppress the legitimate struggle of railwaymen must be strongly condemned, and we trust that all democratic people and particularly women's organisations will assert themselves against the government's repressive measures".

~~Parameswaran~~
Pramila Dandavate M.P.
Manju Mathur

Lilla Kani Fernandes
Champa Limaye
K. Thiruv

Shri N.G. Goray, M.P. has issued the following telegrams to the Chief Minister of Kerala and Chief Minister of Tamilnadu to establish liaison between striking leaders and the Government to help resumption of negotiations:

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ADAMANT ABOUT POLICY OF SUPPRESSING RAILWAY STRIKE STOP ACTION COMMITTEE OFFER TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT INSISTING ON RELEASE OF LEADERS HAS ELICITED NO RESPONSE STOP MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT NOT ALLOWED TO MEET FERNANDES IN JAIL STOP REIGN OF TERROR LET LOOSE ON STRIKERS STOP REQUEST YOU AND KERALA/TAMILNADU CHIEF MINISTER TO REACH DELHI AND ESTABLISH LIAISON BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND STRIKE LEADERS WHETHER IN JAIL OR OUTSIDE TO HELP RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

N.G. GORAY

According to information received from Saharanpur the Loco shed which was partly working till yesterday has been completely closed and all its three thousand employees are on strike.

About one thousand employees working in the Yard have also been on strike. The carriages workers too have come out, to make the strike complete.

This trend of more and more workers joining the strike contradicts the Government claim of greater attendance. Similar reports have come from Jaipur, Bareilly and Ahmedabad.

2. Kishanganj colony workers have been told to quit their houses within two hours, by 3 p.m. or they will be evicted forcibly.

Mr. P.M. Lekhi, Advocate has filed a writ in the High Court today against the eviction order.

3. George Fernandes case have been adjourned till 20th.

4. Opposition and Independent Members of Parliament have been refused permission to see George Fernandes in Jail by the Home Minister.

हिन्द मजदूर सभा (दिल्ली राज्य)

१२० वीं वावर रोड, नई दिल्ली-१

दिनांक मई १३, १९७४

स्पेशल सरकुलर

१५ मई के लिये तैयार हो जाओ

साथियों,

सरकार की मजदूर विरोधी नीति ने जिस वेदनी से रेल के मजदूरों को खलने की कोशिश की उसकी मिसाल कहीं नहीं मिलती। पहली बार भारत में मजदूर ने संयुक्त होकर उठने की कोशिश की है और उसने सब संस्थाओं को भी मजदूर किया है कि वह एक आवाज में रेल कर्मचारियों के साथ में तड़ हो। आज सब संस्थाओं ने तय किया है कि १५ मई बुधवार को समस्त भारत में हड़ताल हो रेती हड़तालें अंग्रेज सरकार के समय गांधी जी के नेतृत्व में अंग्रेज के कुत्ते के खिलाफ ह्वा करती थी। हमें इस हड़ताल में पूरे तौर से हिस्सा लेना ही नहीं लेना है बल्कि उसे सफल भी करना है।

३ मई कमिटी के सिलसिले में जो क्षेत्रीय समितियां बनी थीं उन्हीं समितियों द्वारा फिर से काम शुरू हो हर यूनिट अपने क्षेत्र में तड़ चढ़ कर भाग ले और हर मजदूर नेता अपने साथियों के साथ जत्थे बन्दी करके १५ मई की हड़ताल को सफल बनायें।

सरकार दिल्ली हिन्द मजदूर सभा की राज्य समिति के ८ सदस्यों को बन्दी बना चुकी है और वाकियों पर उसकी नजर है। साथी ईश्वरदास खन्ना भी गिरफ्तार हो चुके हैं। कई लोगों के वारन्ट भी निकले हुए हैं। इन शक्तियों के होते हुए हमें आगे बढ़ना है। आम जनता से सम्पर्क रखना है और मजदूर संस्थाओं को अपने साथ मिलाना है। १५ मई में सिर्फ दो दिन बाकी हैं। यह सरकार विरुद्ध ही सब साथी एक दूसरे को खबर पहुंचाने की कोशिश करें क्योंकि हाक द्वारा यह सरकुलर सब जाह नहीं पहुंच सकता।

१५ मई को शांतिपूर्ण तरीके से दिल्ली बन्द करवाना है सरकारी एजेन्ट और कांग्रेसी कार्यकर्ता कोशिश करेंगे कि हम अपने काम में सफल न हों। हमें दौड़ों व बाजारों में निकल जाना है और कांग्रेसियों से टकराव को क्वाते हुए सिर्फ अपने मजसद को सामने रखना है।

बाकी सभी सक्रिय साथी भेरी उस बात को भी याद रखें जो मैंने ३ मई की हड़ताल को उन्हें कही थी। मैं स्वयं भी टेलीफोन द्वारा हर साथी से बात करने की कोशिश करूंगा और जो न मिल सके वह सभेरी ज्ञापनाल गौड़, धानसिंह जोश, वीरेन्द्र सक्सेना, गीरी शंकर मिश्रा, लायकराम व प्रेम भायर से सम्पर्क करें।

साथियों १५ मई को दिल्ली पूरा बन्द रहना चाहिये। रेल कर्मचारियों के औरने बढ़ाते।

यह समय है कि हर साथी अपनी अठित योग्यताओं को काम में लायें, दीवारे लियें। सप्टाइल व पोस्टर निकालें। अनिश्चित १५ मई के बाद।

जापदा साथी,
 (वज भोजन वृफान)

C.I.T.U.
(Delhi State)

14 Vithalbhai Patel House
Rafi Marg, New Delhi

May 11, 1974

For Favour of Publication

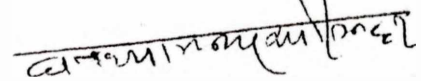
Delhi Trade Unions Meet

A meeting of the representatives of Delhi State Committees of various Central Trade union organisations and a number of independent trade union federations was held to consider ways and means to implement the appeal of the Central Trade Union Federation to launch solidarity action in support of the striking railwaymen. The organisations participating in the meeting were: CITU, AITUC, UTUC, UTUC(Lenin Sarani), BMS, HMS, H?P, Delhi State Bank Employees Federation, Delhi State Bank workers Organisation, All India Building Workers Union, Joint Action Committee Taxi & Scooters, and Delhi News Employees Federation, and All India Insurance Employees Association.

While unanimously endorsing the call issued by the Central Trade Unions, the meeting decided to stage a general strike of all industrial workers, commercial employees, transport services, etc. on 15-5-74 in support of Railwaymen's strike. The meeting condemned the repression let loose by the government on the peaceful strike and calls upon by the organised T.U. movement in the Capital City to organise massive demonstrations, meetings etc. against flagrant violation of fundamental Trade Union rights of the working people. The meeting demanded that the government should forthwith release the arrested railway workers and leaders ~~XXXX~~ and settle the patently just and legitimate demands of the railwaymen by negotiation with the Coordination Committee of the Railway workers.

This meeting appealed all the Union which are not present in the meeting to demonstrate their solidarity with the working class by participating in the General strike on 15th May 1974.

This meeting also appealed the democratic people to support workers cause.



Ghanshyam Saran Sinha
General Secretary
C.I.T.U.

Socialist Party
Central Office

16/17 Vithalbai Patel House
Rafi Marg, New Delhi

May 12, 1974

For Favour of Publication

Shri Madhu Limaye, S.M. Banerji and Madhu Dandavate, Members of the Lok Sabha and Mrs. Champa Limaye have issued the following statement:

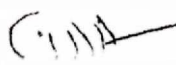
" We visited the Kishanganj railway colony yesterday and found that the treated ^{ment} meted out to the railway employees in this colony by the Delhi Armed Police and the railway authorities was reminiscent of the fascist regimes in Germany and Italy.

"The residents of this colony have received eviction notices and they have been threatened that their water and electricity supply will be discontinued.

"When about 200 housewives and children from the Kishanganj railway colony demonstrated on 10th May near Sarai Rohila railway line, the Delhi Armed Police resorted to heavy lathi charge in which Smt. Sarla Rani, wife of a railway union leader was seriously injured on her head and Smt. Jogendra Kaur was badly beaten on her back. Kumari Jasodara Pachuram a ten year girl also received a serious injury. Smt. Kulwant Kaur was arrested.

"After lathicharge the Delhi Armed Police chased the demonstrators and made indiscriminate arrests in the colony. Even persons not connected with the Railways have been arrested.

"We warn the government that the railway employees will not be cowed down by this repression but their determination to carry on the struggle will be further steeled and they will continue to fight till they achieve victory".


Office Secretary

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125 Babar Road, New Delhi

May 11, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The indefinite strike of railwaymen has entered the fourth day. The Action Committee of the NCCRS hails the heroic struggle which the railwaymen are continuing with great determination. The reports received by the Action Committee from various parts of the country show that mad with the unprecedented success of the strike, the governmental machinery has intensified their repressive measures, against the women folks of railwaymen who are being harassed and tortured. Lathi charge on women folk was resorted to in various places. Railwaymen and their families are being evicted from their ~~alotted~~ allotted quarters from railway colonies with the help of police and CRP. Indiscriminate arrests are continuing,

The Action Committee strongly condemns these repressive measures which have surpassed all previous records. The Action Committee calls upon the railwaymen to continue the strike with greater unity and determination till a just ~~demands~~ settlement is reached on their demands.

The Action Committee discussed today a letter received from leaders of various Opposition parties in Parliament who had met the Prime Minister yesterday to discuss the situation arising out of the railway strike.

The suggestion made by the leaders of Opposition parties in their meeting with the Prime Minister that all the arrested leaders and railwaymen be released and negotiations be resumed at the point they were broken off is in line with the thinking of the Action Committee.

The leaders have also informed us that from the Government side the proposal made for a solution of the present dead-lock is that there should be a simultaneous implementation of the following three-point formula:

- i) Release of the arrested leaders of the NCCRS;
- ii) Resumption of negotiations; and
- iii) Withdrawal of the strike

The Action Committee after considering this three-point formula has reached at the following conclusions:

1. The three-point formula is unworkable and hence unacceptable;
2. The Action Committee wants to make it clear that in the present position the withdrawal of strike is out of question;
3. At the same time, the Action Committee is in favour of a negotiated settlement of the dispute and is prepared to participate in any negotiations if there is any offer for the same from the Government.

PHONE: 4 0 9 4 7

GRAM: RAILWAYMEN

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-E Babar Road,
New Delhi - 1

Ref. No. NCCRS/1/74

May 11, 1974.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

The National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle has formed Legal Aid Committee to give legal assistance to the arrested railway union leaders and their family members. The National Coordination Committee has appointed the following lawyers:-

1. Mr. K.K. Luthra
2. Mr. O.P. Malviya
3. Mr. Santok Singh
4. Mr. Ramanand Nath
5. Mr. Shamlal Gaur
6. Mr. J.S. Garkle
7. Mr. Sushil Khanna


Office Secretary.

The News Editor,

New Delhi

rn*

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi

May 11, 1974

For Favour of Publication: The following statement ^{was} issued
by Mr. George Fernandes from Tihar Jail:-

"On the fourth day of the strike, I congratulate the railwaymen for successfully foiling all attempts by the Railway Board to sow dissensions in their ranks. The railwaymen should demonstrate before AIR against the false and tendentious news and features put out by the government's publicity media. I have no doubt whatsoever that the railwaymen will win their struggle. I thank all trade unions and others who have given the railwaymen such magnificent support. The government is pursuing a suicidal course, and I hope it will not take it much more time to see the realities on the railways and take the necessary steps to meet the legitimate demands of the workers. A few trains run by the BSF and Territorial Army cannot break railwaymen's determination to win their demands.

GEORGE FERNANDES "

for Prayagrah
For Action Committee

16/17 Vithalbhai Patel House
Rafi Marg, New Delhi
May 10, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The Student Federation of India, All India Student Federation and All India Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha greets the historic strike launched by the railway workers. Braving the brutal repression unleashed by the government, lakhs of railwaymen have begun this historic struggle to achieve their just demands. The Central Government has resorted to the most treacherous and vicious methods to suppress the struggle. Beginning with the cowardly arrest of the Railway leaders during negotiation thousands of railway and trade union activists have been rounded up under MISA and DIR. Thousands of BSF and CRP have been deployed in railway stations, Loco sheds and residential colonies to terrorise the railway men and their families. Defying such terror tactics the railwaymen have moved into action unitedly.

The strike of the railwaymen is crucial for the working class and the democratic movement. We appeal to all students to rally in support of the railwaymen and fight all attempts at disruption by the Government, the ruling party and its organisations.

Our organisations pledge total support to the railwaymen and send our warm greetings to the NCCRS.

We demand from the Government immediate release of the railway workers, withdrawal of the CRP and BSF from railway establishments and accede to the just and genuine demands of railway workers.

RELEASE ALL ARRESTED ACTIVISTS !!

WITHDRAW BSF & CRP FROM RAILWAY ESTABLISHMENTS!!

LONG LIVE THE RAILWAY WORKERS' STRUGGLE !!

SYS, SFI and AISF calls upon all students and youth to render concrete support to glorious struggle of the railway workers.

Khrakar
S. F. I.
(Jt. Secy)

Duttacharya
A. I. S. F.
(VICE PRES. DELHI STATE)
COMMITTEE

Dalit Gopalan
(S. Y. S.)
(Secy and member
of N. C. of SYS)

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 10, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The indefinite countrywide strike of Railwaymen continues to be complete on the third day despite the Government's brutal and repressive measures on strikers and its attempt to foist charges of violence and sabotage to malign their peaceful and disciplined struggle. At some places attempts are made to compel Railwaymen to join duties at the point of bayonet and ~~threat~~ threat of evicting them from their quarters. The Railwaymen have frustrated these attempts with commendable courage.

A large section of Central Government employees have gone on indefinite strike from today in sympathy and solidarity with Railwaymen. The Committee greets this gesture of solidarity. It also appreciates the the gesture of the AIR Staff artists Union, which has condemned the AIR management for making them broadcast a 'package of lies' from the Radio regarding the strike.

The Action Committee condemns the strong-arm tactics of the Government. It also expresses its grave concern for the treatment given to Railwaymen and others in jail that has made many of them to resort to hunger strike. The Committee appeals to Railwaymen that they should continue in a peaceful and determined manner their historic strike and give no importance to the rumours circulated through AIR of some formula for settlement. The Action Committee has not received any proposal from any quarters so far.

Action Committee highly appreciates the messages of solidarity received from International Trade Union organisations such as TUI(WFTU) and IPF(ICFTU).


Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

COPY OF MESSAGES FROM WFTU AND ICFTU and Japan

Trade Unions International of
Transport Workers (WFTU) Frague, May 6, 1974

Brother George Fernandes
President,
AIRF, 125 E Babar Road, New Delhi

Dear Brother,

Thank you very much for your cable which reached me Friday last. Immediately after we discussed the matter in our Secretariat and resolved to send a telegramme to the Prime Minister/ a copy is enclosed herewith for your ready reference/, as well as to issue a press declaration inviting our affiliated and friendly organisations to extend their support and solidarity to their class brother in case of general strike of Indian Railwaymen.

Wish you every success in the struggle and await to hear from you.

Yours fraternally,

S/-

Debbumar Ganguli
General Secretary

Press declaration

Following the failure in negotiations between the Railway Ministry and the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle/composed of the railway trade unions of the AITUC-WFTU, AIRF-ICFTU and other central and autonomous railway trade unions/ relating to the settlement of the various general and sectional demands of railwaymen -/in particular provision of wages upwards following an erosion in real earnings due to enormous increase in prices, a need-based minimum wage, wage parity with the other public sector undertakings, 8-hour working-day, decasualisation of all casual railwaymen, etc/, two million Indian railwaymen have given a strike notice from May 8.

The TUI considers the railwaymen's demands as just and reasonable. It demands an immediate settlement of the dispute by conceding the railwaymen's demands, an end to repressions and an immediate release of the arrested leaders. A cable containing these demands was sent to the Prime Minister of India.

Should the general strike of Indian Railwaymen materialise, the TUI secretariat appeals to all the affiliated and friendly organisations to extend their active support and solidarity to their Indian brothers, including protests to the Prime Minister of India and messages of solidarity to the railway unions involved in the dispute.

Telegram: Prime Minister Government of India New Delhi
MEMBERS

ON BEHALF 16 MILLION WORLD OVER urge upon you to concede railwaymen demands we consider just and reasonable to stop repressive measures and release all arrested leaders.

Secretariat, Trade Unions ITW

COPY OF TELEGRAM

TOKYO

Railwaymen
New Delhi

SHOCKED AT MASS ARREST AIRF LEADERS STOP ON BEHALF
230000 KOKURO MEMBERS SINCERELY EXTEND OUR SUPPORT
AND SOLIDARITY WITH YOUR ACTIONS STOP WITH DEEP INDIGNATION
WE CABLED PROTEST AGAINST INDIAN GOVERNMENT STOP WE
ALSO SUBMIT OUR PROTEST TO INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO
MURAKAMI PRESIDENT KOKUTETSUROSO TOKYO

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi, May 10, 1974

Mr. George Fernandes has
issued the following statement from jail:

The strike has entered the third day, and there is no doubting that it is a total success. The lies and slander against railwaymen's leaders, and the false and distorted news dished out by the Railway Board officials and the All India Radip can have no impact on the determination of the railwaymen to carry on the struggle till victory is achieved.

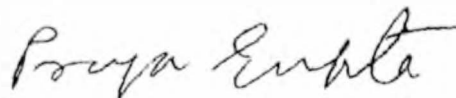
Only an anti-people government can call a railway strike as anti-national. Last month, railwaymen in Germany and Japan had two massive strikes and got substantial wage concessions. The miners' strike in England brought about the downfall of the Conservative government, but none called the miners unpatriotic. One million British engineering workers are on strike since yesterday and Britain's economy is in doldrums, but no leader of the British Engineering workers is in prison.

Railwaymen must stand firm in the belief that no power on earth can defeat them if they stand united. No threats, no arrests, no hardships should frighten them. The territorial Army and the BSF cannot run the railways. And A.P. Sharma's jokes in Parliament should be laughed at.

Remember there can be no settlement if our demands for parity and bonus are not met. Keep fighting. You must win this fight.

George Fernandes

Tihar Jail
10-5-74



Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125th Babar Road,
New Delhi, May 10, 1974

For Favour of Publication


Mr. P.K. Barua, Secretary General and Mr. H.S. Choudhary, Joint Secretary General of the All India Loco Running Staff Association have issued the following statement from Tihar Jail:-

We send our greetings to the railwaymen for the magnificent response given by them to the strike call. Whatever may be the propaganda carried through all India Radio and Railway Bhavan sources, the fact is the strike has totally paralysed the movement of trains all over the country.

We call upon all railwaymen to stand united and keep fighting till victory is achieved. In Particular, we call upon the Loco Running Staff all over the country to stand in the forefront of the struggle and foil all attempts by the enemies of the railwaymen to create disunity.

Sd/- P.K. Barua
Sd/- H.S. Chaudhary

Tihar Jail
May 10, 1974


Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-E Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 10, 1974

For Favour of Publication

From within the Prison walls, I send my greetings to all railwaymen all over the country for their magnificent demonstration of unity and solidarity. The strike is not merely an unprecedented success, for the railwaymen, it is their finest hour. They have finally served notice that from now on, no power on earth can take them for granted or ever succeed in dividing them.

The march to victory has begun. The enemy is in complete disarray. The running of a few trains by the Territorial Army should not perturb us in the least. The antics of a few professional buffons like A.P. Sharma should only be laughed at.

The Chairman of the Railway Board has said that only 8% of the workers are on strike. Mr. Bery has gone nuts. In the interests of the railways and the in the interests of the country, Mr. Bery should be sacked at once. In the alternative, he should have his head examined. A third course would be to send him to school to learn his arithmetic.

To those on strike, I say: bravo, keep fighting till victory is achieved. To those who for any reason stayed away from strike yesterday, I appeal: LEND YOUR WAYS, JOIN YOUR STRIKING BRETHREN, OUR MOVEMENT HAS NO PLACE FOR TRAITORS TO THE CAUSE.

GEORGE FERNANDES

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

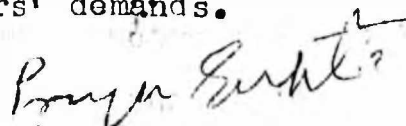
125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi
May 8, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The Action Committee of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle greets the Railwaymen throughout the country for their magnificent response to the strike call. The strike is unprecedented in the annals of the Railway Trade Union movement and has opened a new chapter in its history.

Government's repressive measures have totally failed to break the indomitable will of the railwaymen. All their efforts to break the unshakable unity have been foiled by their united action.

We hope that new sense will dawn on the government and they will refrain from standing on any false prestige and come forward to release all arrested persons unconditionally and resume negotiations to bring about just settlement on the workers' demands.


Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi

For Favour of Publication

The time for action has come. As Gandhiji said,
for Railwaymen it is now DO OR DIE.

I do not know how long the Government will
persist in its futile attempts to break our struggle.
But every Railwaymen should always remember that no
power on earth can break our united action.

So, let us march forward, confident that
VICTORY will be ours! Do not get cowed down by any
threats. Remember, the future belongs to the brave.

Stand United. Stand firm. We shall win this
struggle.

Long Live the unity of Railwaymen!

Long live the N.C.C.R.S.

Yours fraternally,

(George Fernandes)
Convener

Tihar Prison
May 7, 1974

Priya Gupta
Priya Gupta 7.5.74
for Action Committee

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-E, Babar Road
New Delhi

May 7, 1974

For Favour of Publication

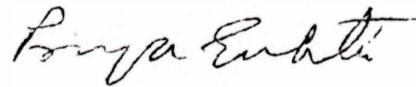
The Action Committee of the National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen's Struggle has learnt with astonishment of the attempt by the Deputy Minister for Railways in the Parliament today ^{to} misrepresent the workers' point of view and discredit the NCCRS. Government continues to persist in its statement that six out of the eight demands listed in the strike notices of the unions represented by the NCCRS have been conceded. This is totally false. Government scuttled the negotiations of 2nd May by their act of treachery in arresting railway leaders throughout the country in the early hours of the morning. No further discussion has taken place since then. The Action Committee, therefore calls on all railwaymen not to be misled by the false propaganda of the government and the Railway Board.

Attempts are also afoot to pressurise individuals to issue statements of withdrawal from the strike on behalf of the constituent organisations of the NCCRS. No credence should be given to such statements which are totally false. The NCCRS stands firm to its commitment to the railwaymen.

Government continues to be adamant in its desire to have confrontation with railwaymen. The demand of the NCCRS for the unconditional release of railway leaders has been totally rejected. Arrests are on the increase and over 5000 are already behind the bars. The unrest and strike actions on the railways are spreading and on May 8 the strike will be total.

Railwaymen! Do not fall prey to the blandishments of Government nor their moves at disrupting your unity. Particularly be on guard against the volleys of lies being spread through the All India Radio, Television and other

mass media of the government. The Action Committee calls on railwaymen to stand united and firm in their struggle for their just demands and fight on till a just settlement is reached. The Action Committee once again thanks all organisations and democratic forces for the support to their just struggle and has full confidence that this will be further strengthened in the days ahead.



Priya Gupta
for Action Committee

ALL INDIA RAILWAY EMPLOYEES CONFEDERATION

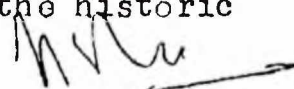
43/12 Railway Colony
Kishanganj, Delhi 7
May 7, 1974

Press Release

The Confederation is an active constituent of the N.C.C.R.S. which has decided to launch an indefinite general strike on the railways from 8th May for the achievement of 6-point demand charter of railwaymen, As the negotiations have been scuttled by the Government by arresting the leaders in the midst of negotiations.

The various categorywise associations/Unions have therefore to implement the decision of joint struggle from 8th May with all the force at their command.

No single office-bearer of any organisation has any authority to withdraw or postpone the strike without the decision of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle or their competent body. If any such attempt is made by any office bearer of any association or other organisation, the railway workers should not take notice of such statements. All workers are called upon to display complete unity for the success of the historic struggle.


N.S. Bhangoo
Secretary General
and Action Committee member
NCCRS

GRAM: RAILWAYMEN

PHONE: 40247

NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125E Babar Road,
New Delhi 1
May 3, 1974

For Favour of Publication

The Action Committee of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle pays homage to Comrade V.R. Mhalgi, General Secretary, National Railway Mazdoor Union, (CR), the first martyr in the cause of the Railwaymen's struggle. We send our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family and comrades, and demand payment of compensation to his family.

The Action Committee congratulates railwaymen for withstanding the brutal repression unleashed by the Government and demonstrating their protest in a disciplined and united manner. We also note with appreciation the support to railwaymen being extended by large section of the trade union and democratic movement.

The Committee expresses its deep appreciation of the support extended to railwaymen in their hour of trial by all opposition members of Parliament and for their united demand that all arrested railway leaders be immediately released.

The Action Committee calls on all railwaymen to intensify their preparations for the strike to commence on 8th May. We warn all railwaymen to remain vigilant against all manoeuvres of Government and Disruptionist forces to feist cases of sabotage and violence on this movement with a view to being discredit to railwaymen. Railwaymen should take adequate and prompt action to forestall and prevent all such acts.

The Action Committee denounces the totally unvarnished attack by the Railway Minister on George Fernandes, General Secretary of the NCCRS, for

-2-

evidence. We refute all such charges against the genuine leaders of the railway workers.

The Action Committee categorically rejects the Railway Minister's demand that the strike notice should be withdrawn before negotiations are resumed. We demand that all arrested persons should be immediately released unconditionally if Government is serious about negotiations.

Railwaymen today have no alternative but to proceed with the strike to win their demands. The responsibility of the current strike lies squarely on the shoulders of the Government.

Already train services are virtually at a standstill. If further loss to the national economy and inconvenience and hardships to passengers is to be avoided, Government should release the leaders immediately and settle the demands of the railwaymen.

The Action Committee calls upon the Railwaymen to stand firm and defeat the treacherous offensive of the Government and railway authorities.



Priya Gupta,
for Action Committee

National Coordination Committee
for Railwaymen's Struggle

GRAM: RAILWAYMEN

PHONE: 40947

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi-1

Dated May 2, 1974

PRESS RELEASE

With the arrests of Mr George Fernandes, Convenor, and other members of the Action Committee, just before what has been described as crucial phase of negotiations, the government has lost all its credibility for talks.

This was the unanimous opinion of the Action Committee which met this morning.

The Action Committee has, therefore, addressed the following letter to the Railway Minister:

" Dear Mr. Mishra,

We have been informed that Mr. George Fernandes, Convenor of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle, and Mr. H.S. Choudhuri, member of the Action Committee, were arrested in the early hours of the morning. A warrant is issued for the arrest of Mr. N. Chakravarty, member of the Action Committee. We are astonished that such a heinous step has been taken in violation of all democratic values. While negotiations to settle the demands of railwaymen with a view to avert the strike are in progress, and we were due to meet at 10 A.M. to-day, the police swoop down on railway leaders and arrest them. Mr. P.K. Barua, Secretary-General of the All India Loco Running Staff Association and fourteen others in Delhi area alone have been arrested. Reports have started pouring in for widespread arrests in every zone of the Railways. We do not know how many throughout the country have been put behind the bars in just one night.

The Action Committee condemns these gross and blatant violation of democratic rights. You had yourself given a categorical assurance when negotiations commenced that no arrests or penal actions would take place when negotiations are going on. Do you call these arrests the implementing of your first assurance? What credibility do you think railwaymen will have in your assurances when the actions of the Government during negotiations belie the assurances given?

At every meeting we have held the first issue has always been precisely repressive measures, provocative actions of the railway authorities etc., etc., Now, it appears that you and your

Contd..... 2/-

Contd.....

Ministry, and the Government have made all arrangements to precipitate a strike.

In these circumstances, no useful purpose has been served by negotiations on the demands and these negotiations were nothing but a sham and eyewash. The Action Committee, therefore, will not participate in the negotiations. There is no alternative before the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle but this and the Government bears the full responsibility for breaking the negotiations.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- Parvathi Krishnan, M.P.,
Sd/- Priya Gupta,
Sd/- Samar Mukherjee, M.P.,
Sd/- G.S. Gokhale,
Sd/- K.P. Ramaswamy,
Sd/- H.S. Bhargoo,
Sd/- P.K. Kumaran,
Sd/- D.D. Vasisht,
Sd/- N.M. Pathak,

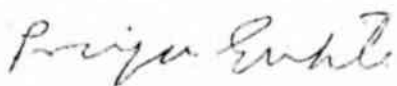
Members of the Action
Committee (NCCRS)"

The Action Committee calls upon all railwaymen to organise united protest actions all over the country immediately. Railwaymen should stand firm and continue their preparations for the strike which will start on 31st May at 6.00 a.m.

All efforts are being made to disrupt the unity of railwaymen and divide them. The All India Radio as usual, is being utilised for this nefarious purpose and tendentious news was given last night that the AIRF and CITU did not participate in finalising the minutes. This is totally false as the NCCRS was represented by duly authorised persons. The Action Committee warns the railwaymen not to fall prey to all the false propaganda of government and reactionary forces, but to defend and further strengthen the unity so far achieved.

The Action Committee appeals to the people and all workers throughout the country not to be misled by the slanderous statements of government against railwaymen and lend their full support to them. It is the government that bears full responsibility for all the actions that may ensue from their own provocative and antidemocratic measures and actions.

The Action Committee reiterates its resolve to act unitedly in this supreme hour of trial for railwaymen and stand by the side of all workers who may be the victims of government's brutal attacks.


For Action Committee.

Telephone: 40947

Telegram: RAILWAYMEN.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

No. NCCRS/

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi,
Dated May 1, 1974.

Dear Comrade,

Enclosed herewith is the copy of a "Secret" letter addressed by Mr. C.W. Narasimhan, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, to all the State Governments, etc.

I hope your organisation has taken all the necessary steps to meet the situation that will arise when the known leaders are picked up or arrested.

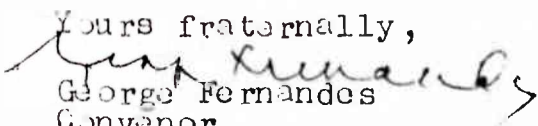
The talks with the Railway Ministry have more or less broken down, though a final meeting has been fixed with the Railway Minister for May 2. You may expect a crack-down on all our activists and leaders on the night of the 2nd or a day or two thereafter.

I hope you are doing everything necessary to bring about a total strike on the railways. No matter what the price we have to pay, it is imperative that we win this struggle. There is no hope of the Government yielding unless we have gone through a bitter struggle.

Enclosed herewith is also a statement from Comrade P.K. Barua, Secretary General, All India Loco Running Staff Association.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,


George Fernandes
Convener.

Encl: Two

To

All the constituent Organisations, Unions,
Associations.

ALL INDIA LOCO RUNNING STAFF ASSOCIATION

CAMP: NEW DELHI


May 1, 1974.

PRESS RELEASE

The Working Committee of the Loco Running Staff Association at its meeting in Vijaywada has called upon the loco running staff to make common cause with their brethren on the Railways by joining the indefinite general strike due to commence on May 8, 1974.

The LRSA is proud to claim that the movements conducted by the locomen in 1973 acted as the catalytic agents to bring about a new sense of militancy and unity among all sections of the railwaymen.

We are indeed distressed to note the negative attitude of the Railway Ministry to the general demands of the railwaymen formulated by the National Convention of Railwaymen on February 27, 1974. Unless a satisfactory settlement of these demands is brought about, the railwaymen will have no alternative but go on strike with effect from 8th May, 1974. And on the success of this struggle will depend the future and the fate of all railwaymen in the country.


P.K. Barua
Secretary General

To
The News Editor,
New Delhi

From: Shri C.V. Narasimhan,
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To : (i) The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments
(excepting Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Tripura)
(ii) The Chief Secretaries of all Union Territory
Administrations (excepting Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep & Mizoram).

New Delhi 110001 dated 7th April 1974.

Subject: Threatened All-India strike by railway employees.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to para 4(1) of this Ministry's letter of even No. dated 2nd April 1974 and suggest that the following paragraphs may be taken into account in regard to preventive action that may be found necessary to deal with the threatened railway strike. These suggestions are intended to be illustrative and I am desired to request that in the light of the local requirements and problems, they may be suitably supplemented or modified by the State Level Co-ordination Committee, the constitution of which has also been recommended in the aforesaid letter from this Ministry.

2. One of the important ingredients of effective preventive action will be the arrest and removal from the scene of their activities of persons who otherwise would either contribute to the success of the strike or create serious law and order problems. It will be appreciated that the timing of such preventive arrests should be neither premature nor late. Premature arrests may precipitate strike and other law and order problems, even while attempts are being made to avert them. The action, if were too late, would give sufficient opportunity to the wanted persons to make their apprehension difficult. I am, therefore, desired to suggest that you may await our specific clearance regarding the date from when preventive arrests should be carried out.

3. While the actual timing of such arrests may await further intimation from us, advance action in regard to preparation of lists of different categories of persons to be arrested should be taken in hand immediately. In preparing such lists, it would be necessary to include the following broad categories:-

- (a) Activists and militants amongst the railway employees who are known to be taken prominent part in planning and organising the strike and who are likely to indulge in intimidatory activities against other railway employees who may not be willing to participate in the strike.
- (b) Persons other than railway employees who are influential among railway employees or actively instigating them to participate in the strike.
- (c) Other persons with different political affiliations who are likely to exploit the situations caused by the railway strike or otherwise create serious law and order problems.
- (d) Anti-social elements, especially in urban areas, who are likely to take advantage of the situation and indulge in acts of violence against person or property.

4. In preparing lists of persons to be taken into preventive custody it would be useful for the concerned authorities in the State to keep in close touch with the General Manager and the Divisional Superintendents of the Railways concerned. The Intelligence Bureau will be providing necessary assistance to the State CID in the preparation of necessary lists.

5. For preventive action to be effective, it will be necessary to ensure that the lists of persons to be arrested are carefully prepared and scrutinised at an appropriate level. The importance of intensifying collection of proper intelligence in this regard as well as the maintenance of closest co-ordination with the railway administration may be impressed upon all concerned.

6. In planning out measures for preventive arrests, it would be necessary not only to take into account the specific requirements of the situation arising out of the railway strike but also to take an overall view of the likely law and order problems in the state as a whole, keeping in view the likely behaviour of the sensitive groups of the type mentioned in para 4(1) of the letter of the 2nd April, 1974.

7. The provisions of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) could be profitably invoked while undertaking preventive action. Section (1) (a) (xiii) specifically enables detention of any person with a view of preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to maintenance of services essential to the community. It may also be noted that whereas the grounds of detention will ordinarily require to be furnished to the detenu within five days of the date of detention, section 8(1) permits the authority issuing the order of detention to furnish such grounds within 15 days in exceptional circumstances and for reasons to be recorded in writing. The corresponding extension of dates for approval of orders by the Governments, etc. may also be noted in this connection. Whereas action for the Commission of specific offences should continue to be under the normal laws, there need not be any hesitation to resort to the provisions of the MISA in dealing with an extraordinary situation, such as a general strike by railwaymen. It is requested that all the concerned district authorities may be advised to familiarise themselves with the provisions of MISA and other relevant laws in this connection.

8. Developments subsequent to this Ministry's letter of 2nd April do not exclude the possibility of a strike taking place on or after the 15th April. I am, therefore, directed to suggest that the preparation of necessary lists of different categories of persons who may be required to be taken into custody may be completed not later than 10th April. We will keep the State Government informed of further developments and also communicate in due course our advice regarding the timing of arrests in connection with the threatened strike.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- C.V. Narasimhan
Joint Secretary to the Government

India

Dated 7th April 1974.

No.3/15/74-Poll.(D-I)

Copy to the Inspectors General of Police in the States and Union Territory Administrations through the Chief Secretaries concerned.

Sd/- C.V. Narasimhan
Joint Secretary to the Government

Gram : RAILWAYMEN .

PHONE : 40947

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYMEN'S STRUGGLE

Convenor :
George Fernandes

125-E, Babar Road,
New Delhi-1

Dated April 13, 1974

PRESS RELEASE

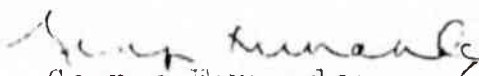
The Action Committee of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle met from 12.00 noon to 2.30 P.M. at 125- E, Babar Road, New Delhi.

The meeting reviewed the discussions held with the Railway Minister. It was hoped that the Member, Staff, Railway Board who would be holding negotiations with the Negotiating Committee would have been given a complete mandate to arrive at a settlement on behalf of the Railway Ministry. Otherwise, the talks could only be one more exercise in futility.

The Action Committee noted that several trade union activists on the Railways were being victimised by the authorities through suspensions, transfers and through arrest under the Preventive Detention Act. In the past 48 hours, over one dozen activists had been arrested in the Eastern Sector. This raised grave doubts about the bonafides of the Railway Administration to come to an amicable settlement on the demands.

The Committee decided to raise this issue when talks begin on the 15th instant.

The Committee also discussed the agenda for the meeting of the National Co-ordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle which is scheduled to meet on 15th April at 3.00 P.M. at Constitution Club, Vithalbai Patel House, Rail Marg.


George Fernandes
Convenor

The News Editor,

New Delhi.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

New Delhi - April 10, 1974

The Action Committee appointed by the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle met today to discuss issues that will come up for discussion in the Joint Meeting of the Railwaymen Union with Shri K.V. Saghunath Reddy, Union Minister for Labour.

It was decided that the Action Committee should meet tomorrow in the evening to consider the proposals if any made out by the Union Labour Minister for settlement of the demands and to decide further course of action.

The National Coordination Committee will meet only on the 15th April '74 from 1:00 P.M. to decide the date of strike, if the negotiations fail.

(J.P. Chaubey)
For Convener.

The News Editor

New Delhi

April 10, 1974.

To: Overseas Japanese Correspondents,
stationed in New Delhi.

Dear Brother,

Subject: Demonstration before the Japanese Embassy
at 10:30 A.M. on April 11, 1974.

Japanese railwaymen are on strike since April 10, 1974 to press their economic demands and they will remain on strike for 3 days.

Indian Railwaymen will demonstrate before the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi on April 11, 1974 at 10:30 A.M. to express their solidarity with the Japanese railwaymen and submit a memorandum to the Japanese Ambassador. You are requested to kindly send your representatives. Sri George Fernandes, President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation will lead the demonstration.

Yours fraternally,


J.P. Chaudhary
For General Secretary.

AIRF/160-13(1X)

3rd April, 1974.

The Editor,
Pioneer,
Lucknow

Dear Sir,

I have read your Editorial Comments in your daily, dated the 2nd April, 1974 under the caption "The Ultimate Strike". In this connection I would request you to kindly publish this letter in your esteemed daily in order to put the record straight:

"The railwaymen are not asking for moon as is being made out by the Railway Minister in one of his utterances. The Railwaymen are asking for parity in wages, obtaining in public sector undertakings for comparable professions, jobs and works. Today, the total wage of a Class IV employee in the Railways is Rs.227/- per month as against Rs.350/- and above given to the Cement Workers under an Award of the Union Labour Minister and in all public sector undertakings of Hillai, Durgapur and Rourkela, etc. The wages of the Class III and Class IV employees working in the nationalised banks, Reserve Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India are still higher.

Bonus has been given to all the industrial workers in the country excepting those in the Railways, P&T and Defence Factories, who are also industrial workers. This demand has been under discussion in the JCM for over 2 years and the Govt. has been evading a decision.

The Govt. employees drawing salary over Rs.300/- are given only 75% neutralisation as Dearness Allowance against 100% given to the employees of the State Trading Corporation and elsewhere in the public sector undertakings.

The resolution adopted by the Annual Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation in October, 1973 at Secunderabad and also the resolution adopted by the National Convention of the Railwaymen held in Delhi on 27th February, 1974, representing all the Railwaymen's Unions/Associations have urged the Govt. of India for a negotiated settlement.

Mr. George Fernandes, President of the AIRF in the meeting convened by Shri L.N. Mishra, Minister for Railways on the 4th February, 1974, personally urged the Minister for Rlys.

Contd.

to open negotiations for settlement of the 6-point Charter of Demands of the Railwaymen. In this meeting the Union Minister for Labour, Shri K.V. Raghunath Reddy and the Planning Minister, Shri D.P. Dhar were also present. As a functionary of the AIRF, I can assure you that the AIRF has been willing and is still willing for a negotiated settlement and does not stand on false prestige. Mr. George Fernandes ever since his election as the President of the AIRF in October, 1973, has been trying for a negotiated settlement and it is the Govt. of India which has been evading a settlement.

It will, therefore, be appreciated that the impression which is being created that the Railwaymen are not eager for a settlement, but going ahead with their strike is arbitrarily based with the intention to malign the railwaymen in the eyes of the public."

Yours faithfully,



(J.P. Chaubey)
~~for General Secretary.~~



National Co-ordination Committee For Railwaymen's Struggle

राष्ट्रीय रेल मजदूर संघर्ष समन्वय समिति

Convenor :
George Fernandes

125/E, Babar Road,
NEW DELHI-1

31st March, 1974.

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

It is unfortunate that the Govt. of India instead of responding to the urge of the National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen for a negotiated settlement on the 6-point Charter of Demands, its Political Affairs Committee is concentrating on action to meet the Railwaymen's Strike.

It may be recalled that this 6-point Charter of Demands which includes wage revision and wage parity with the public sector undertakings, bonus, point to point fixation of pay, full neutralisation of rise in prices, 8-hour working, subsidised grain shops and declassification of casual labourers was prepared by the Annual Convention of the All India Railwaymen's Federation held at Secunderabad in October, last.

On the 27th February, 1974, a meeting of the National Convention representing all railwaymen's unions, associations and federations was held at New Delhi wherein it was decided to call for a General Strike of the Railwaymen if the Govt. of India does not come to a negotiated settlement on these demands by 10th of April, 1974. The IAWC controlled National Federation of the Indian Railwaymen (NFIW) was the sole exception which did not respond to the invitations of the AIRF either to participate in the meeting of the National Convention on the 27th February, 1974, or to join the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's Struggle.

There is tremendous resentment amongst all the sections of the Railwaymen on the discriminatory attitude of the Govt. of India in the matters of wages, and service conditions which has resulted in many stoppages of work by the Railwaymen during the last one year and it would be extremely disappointing if

F.T.O.

once again the Railwaymen are compelled to
embark upon the General Strike to press their
genuine demands.

The National Coordination Committee for
Railwaymen's Struggle, therefore, once again requests
the Govt. of India to respond to the urge for a
~~negotiated~~ negotiated settlement in order to
avoid a country-wide strike by the Railwaymen.

J.P. Chaudhary
(J.P. Chaudhary)
for Convener.

To
The News Editor,
New Delhi.

AIRF/160 - P(12)

31st March, 1974.

The Editor,
Times of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

I have read the news appearing in your daily of 31st March, 1974 under caption "Govt. concern over Railway Strike", reported by the Times of India News Service, wherein it has been said that "Mr. Fernandes has not met Shri Mishra for the last 3 months and neither Mr. Mishra nor Railway Board has received any communication from the AIRF on the strike threat". This is apparently based on incorrect information. The correct position is given below.

The strike decision on the 5-point Charter of Demands was taken by the Secularised Convention of the AIRF in October, 1973 and a copy of the resolution was sent to the Railway Board immediately thereafter. The resolution adopted by the National Convention of the Indian Railwaymen on the 27th February, 1974, was also sent by Shri George Fernandes in a D.O. letter to Shri L.N.Mishra, Minister for Railways immediately thereafter.

On the 4th February, 1974, the Rly. Minister convened a Conference of the Central Trade Unions/organisations and the 2 recognised Federations of the Railwaymen wherein also Shri George Fernandes as President of the AIRF pointedly referred to the Railway Minister the AIRF's decision for going on an Indefinite Strike when the Minister for Labour, Shri K.V.Raghunath Reddy and the Planning Minister, Shri D.P.Dhar were also present. On the 5th February, 1974, on an invitation from the Railway Minister, Shri L.N.Mishra, Shri George Fernandes along with the undersigned and other office bearers of the AIRF met the Railway Minister, Shri L.N.Mishra when the Member Staff, Railway Board, Shri G.P.Warrier was also present. The Rly. Minister after discussing the demand Charter said that he needed prior consultation with the Prime Minister before any meaningful discussion could start on these demands. He, however, suggested that in the meantime, the financial implications of the demands, etc. should be worked out by the Railway Board after discussions with the AIRF.

~~Shri Fernandes desired to meet the Railway Board on the 12th March, 1974, at the Member Staff, Railway Board~~

Contd.

In fact Mr. Fernandes has been pressing for a negotiated settlement since he became the President of the AIRF in his various meetings with the Railway Board and the Railway Minister. The AIRF is always willing for a negotiated settlement.

Yours faithfully,

(J.P. Chaubey)
for General Secretary.