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To
All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR

The Russia Ukraine war has entered the second week. The war has created massive destruction and loss of hundreds of lives both of civilians and armed forces. Reports suggest that more than 1 million people have already been displaced by war and are seeking refuge in other countries. The war has created unimaginable hardships for the Indian citizens in Ukraine who are studying in various universities in that country. A young student from Karnataka has become a direct victim of war.

The AIIEA Secretariat which met virtually on 2nd March 2022 was unanimous in its understanding that war is no solution to any problem. Rather, war itself is a problem. The Secretariat was of the view that the world must work together to end the hostilities and prevent greater damage to the life and property. The sufferings of the general population of Ukraine must be brought to an end early.

Though Russia has genuine concerns over its security and territorial integrity with the expansion of NATO, its decision for a military action is most unfortunate. The world was hoping that the end of cold war would bring peace to globe; unfortunately that was not to be so. The disintegration of Soviet Union and collapse of East European Countries was seen as an opportunity for expansion of markets by United States and industrialized nations of Europe. These markets had to be protected through military might. This resulted in huge expansion of NATO in East Europe raising concerns in Russia over its own security. The period after the end of Cold War saw United States deciding to withdraw from the anti-missile treaty in 2002 totally ignoring the Russian objections. The United States also withdrew from the Treaty signed in 1987 on Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces in 2004.

The decision of Ukraine to seek the membership of European Union and NATO was perceived by Russia as a serious threat to its own security. But that is no reason to give up diplomacy and dialogue and resort to a military action. The global community has to close its ranks and demand that both the parties sit together and try to work out for a solution that would pave way for peace. The territorial integrity of Ukraine has to be protected and at the same time the

security concerns of Russia have to be addressed. The United States and Europe too should be held accountable for their actions leading to the present conflict.

Russia itself has fully embraced capitalism earning the dubious distinction of the most unequal society in the world. There is a rise of autocracy and financial oligarchies. But this is a matter of another discussions altogether. What is important for the present is to campaign for the end of war urgently.

Humanity has undergone tremendous sufferings and hardship because of the unending wars. War cannot resolve any problem is the lesson humanity has learnt from its experiences. The wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan etc., were the result of ambitions for global domination and control over critical resources and have only succeeded in destabilizing the entire region. Millions of lives have been lost in these wars and tens of millions have been displaced from their homes.

The World today spends nearly $ 2 trillion annually on arms. This is criminal considering that one-third of the global population continues to live in miserable conditions. This huge amount could be utilized to make the entire global population lead life of dignity. With the proliferation of nuclear arms, world has become totally unsafe. The working class and progressive sections must demand elimination of all nuclear arms and work for Peace. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the possibility of use of nuclear arms has made the task of developing a truly global movement for peace urgent as never before.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekant Mishra

General Secretary