

Defeat attempt to retain Executive Presidency

It is being revealed now that not only sheer communalist groups but those who need to maintain the executive presidency without making any changes too are behind the clamour to retain the executive presidency.

The main feature of the constitution introduced by J.R. Jayawardene in 1978 was the executive presidency that contained powers that did not exist anywhere else in the world. Every president that came to power after the 17 years of infamous administration of the UNP promised, during the presidential election campaigns,

to abolish the executive presidency due to the mass opposition to the dictatorial post.

Chandrika Bandaranayaka in 1994, Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2005 and Maithripala Sirisena in 2015 had 'abolishing executive presidency' as the main promise in their election campaigns.

However, once they came to

power they came out with various reasons to shelve the promise and the conduct of the incumbent president Maithripala Sirisena is not different. Especially, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, contesting as the 'common' candidate to end Mahinda Rajapaksa's despotic rule, pledged on several instances that he would be the last executive president.

What is hilarious is that many including the likes of Minister Nimal Siripala who were supporters of Mr. Maithripala Sirisena's opponent are making a big din about protecting

executive presidency and have come forward as his protectors. President Maithripala Sirisena, playing the crowned chameleon act, organizes 'sowing feasts' like the habits of ancient kings but has completely stopped the dialogue regarding abolishing the executive presidency and is displaying a readiness to come forward for a presidential election again.

Speaking to 'Red Power' regarding this situation the Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath said President Maithripala Sirisena

can never cast away the move to abolish executive presidency as he has been handed over a mandate by 6.2 million voters in the country. "He got elected as the President not the way all other presidents were elected. He did not have a considerable voter base. People voted for him as he represented slogans against dictatorship, fraud and corruption. He has no other path other than fulfilling those pledges. No presidential election could be held in Sri Lanka again," emphasized Comrade Vijitha Herath.



A Rational Land, a Just Society and a Liberated Human Being!

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The never to be forgotten November!

“Man’s dearest possession is life. It is given to him but once, and he must live it so as to feel no torturing regrets for wasted years, never know the burning shame of a mean and petty past; so live that, dying, he might say: all my life, all my strength were given to the finest cause in all the world—the fight for the Liberation of Mankind.” This quotation that has become the motto of all genuine revolutionaries who struggle for the liberation of mankind was written by the well known Soviet writer Nikolai Ostrovsky. There are two months in which we commemorate those who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of mankind. They are April and November.

Twenty-eight years have gone by since the November in 1989 in which Comrade Rohana Wijeweera, the founder of the JVP, and many of our beloved comrades sacrificed their lives on behalf of the masses. November is a gloomy month for us. For, it was the month in which we lost our leaders and comrades. On the other hand, it is benevolent to us as it contains the ideals of sacrifice, dedication, heroism and humanity. November too has become immortal as it is the month of the genuine men and women who live even after their deaths.

Why do heroes and heroines of November become immortal? Why are their woeful deaths considered as a noble oblation? Why are we, who are alive, so influenced by them? It is due to none other than the noble objective their lives possessed. The November heroes and heroines did not sacrifice their lives for petty selfish interests. They were neither a set of losers who committed suicide. The only objective in their lives was the paramount, sacred intention of creating an independent and just society for their fraternal masses. They, who lived for this intention, strived day and night for it, endured insults, vituperations, tortures and lastly sacrificed their lives for the noble cause. This is why they have become ideals among human beings.

November heroes belonged to a group that rejected capitalist slavery and struggled for genuine independence; equity and justice despite most in the generation had the yoke of oppression of Sri Lanka’s backward capitalism around their necks and had accepted exploitation and suppression as their destiny. They who awakened earlier not only rejected servitude but also shouldered the responsibility of liberating their fraternal masses from bondage. They conscientiously acted and struggled with the intention of toppling the vicious capitalism and to replace it with a magnificent new Socialist society. The enemy grabbed them from us in this struggle.

At a time when 28 years have gone by since their deaths the backward Sri Lankan capitalist society has completely deteriorated and is stinking. All production avenues have been broken down and Sri Lanka has been made a heavily indebted country today. While poverty and economic inequality spread among the masses the ruling groups have become marauders who defraud and waste billions of public money. On the other hand, the bankrupt capitalism that shatters all human qualities that should exist in a human society spreads communalism, religious extremism and caste difference which are the characteristics of a tribal society

Also, crime, murder, rape, child abuse, sex offences soar in the society while brutality is substituted for humanity dragging the country towards barbarity. An education that denies childhood to children and hope for youths has been created and the poor is driven away from education to make it a consumer affair. While health and transport services have broken down and the country is moving towards a precipice, political jokers and jesters “rush in where angels fear to tread.” All this indicates humanity has no future within capitalism. This is the truth November heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives 28 years ago dwelt upon us. This truth is being confirmed over and over again today.

Friedrich Engels once said: ‘Bourgeois society stands at the crossroads, either transition to socialism or regression into barbarism.’ The task of the masses is not to retreat to barbarism or get bogged up in the marsh but to march towards a new society. The November heroes and heroines would be the ideals and the guiding stars of all those who take steps towards this new society that will bring justice and equity to all. For, their knowledge, example, experiences gained in the struggle would be the benefit bestowed upon all those who struggle for a new world. Despite the past being won by the enemy, the future definitely belongs to genuine men and women who struggle for a better world – all the more reason for reminiscences of ‘November’ to last forever.



Immortal you....

**You, who have aspired for justice
 enduring pangs of hunger,
 treated with insolence, suspicion and hostility
 in a land forced with injustice, inequality, chauvinism
 and bigotry
 whose humans lacked humanity
 their normal eyes blinded, mouths gagged and ears
 plugged
 who had their hands tugged deep in their pockets,
 sprang up like a beacon
 casting away this ‘destiny’
 with boundless love for all humans
 to awaken, enlighten, encourage
 them
 to march forward to win their rights!
 Alas!
 in this endeavour
 You, who wished everything for all,
 lost all yours
 accepting enemies’ bullets
 on your heart full of boundless love
 for humanity!
 but though the enemy thinks he’s won
 You chiefly lives
 to guide us
 to teach us
 to struggle for social equality!**

(On behalf of the commemoration of ‘November Heroes’ 2017)

The truth about the outcry against Govt.



By now the UNP – SLFP ‘joint’ government is being rejected by the masses. People’s opposition to the so-called ‘good governance’ government is growing from all four corners of the island. However, this anti-government sentiment doesn’t seem to have paved the way for defeated Rajapaksa clique that was in power earlier to power again. It is the JVP that is winning people’s favour within this anti-government sentiment. This has made the defeated Rajapaksa clique that is bankrupt politically to fly into a rage.

There are very clear reasons for the Rajapaksa clique to fly into a rage. Even the teeny-weeny chance Rajapaksa clique had of coming back to power was diminishing. On one hand many cases of frauds and corruption have been filed against Rajapaksa clique and several of them are being heard. Although members of Rajapaksa family would not be troubled due to the class understanding and agreement between Ranil Wickremesinghe and Mahinda Rajapaksa, the fraudsters around Mr. Rajapaksa would have to face the consequences. The only way they could avoid this is to come to power. They need to come to power immediately but the JVP hampers this attempt which enrages them. Their anger is aimed not at the capitalist government but at the JVP.

The bluff carried out in the past that Rajapaksa would come to power has proved to be empty talk. Despite saying they would come to power within two full moons, they are aware that they would not come to power again for centuries. SLFP has split into two. It was split by Mahinda Rajapaksa and the clique of political refugees around him.

They know they cannot come to power through an election. The little hope they had about coming to power again has been shattered. The likes of Basil

Rajapaksa had prepared during Rajapaksa regime a distorted electoral system that would create a bi-party system, in August the local government election act was amended and the bi-party system was changed. Also, the delimitation process prepared to give an advantage to Rajapaksa was changed as well. Furthermore, the attempt to get an advantage to Rajapaksa by putting forward state officials such as Samurdhi officers as candidates was negated when a clause was added to prevent field officials contesting from areas in which they serve as officials.

Thereafter, Mahinda Rajapaksa clique, when elections to three provincial councils were due, thought of getting the provincial council elections held before the local government elections, either by postponing the LG elections, to win at least one provincial council. However, this final hope of Rajapaksa too was shattered when the provincial council act was amended, the electoral system changed and the provincial council elections were put off for a few months to carry out delimitation of wards to suit the new electoral system and also due to the decision to hold the local government election earlier. This is when Rajapaksa’s fury escalated.

Rajapaksa clique that is in a rage and in pain as it has lost all its hopes of coming back to power, has splintered the bankrupt political party into factions and has now elected to engage in a frenzied ritual of mudslinging at and vituperating the JVP.

The fake discipline of the politics of Rajapaksa clique has been shattered and the real demon has surfaced. It is due to this bankruptcy that Rajapaksa clique has been forced to sow terror in the country coming out with a dialogue about a non-existing constitution claiming that the country is going to be divided. Mr. Rajapaksa, who

never attempted to change, during his tenure of 9 long years, the clauses included in the constitution forced on the country by Mr. J.R. Jayawardene that took the country almost to federalism, who never used the 2/3rd majority he had to change the 13th amendment but used this power to get the 18th amendment adopted so that he could contest for a third term, talking about the country threatened with federalism is nothing but a joke.

When Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa came to power in 2005 the Northern and the Eastern provinces were temporarily merged and Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, without any question, put his signature to the gazettes required annually to continue the merge. He didn’t bother to take the small step of separating the East from the North. The two provinces were finally separated by a court order taken with the mediation of the JVP.

The henchmen of Rajapaksa who are in a rage due to their political bankruptcy charge that they would bomb the Parliament if the ‘new constitution’ is adopted or shoot everyone who votes for the ‘new constitution’. The government elects to be silent regarding these threats. For, the real issues in the country could be swept under

the carpet with the help of this stance of the Rajapaksa.

In this way, Rajapaksa clique that looks for a ‘straw’ for its existence by spreading communalism is now attempting to use the process being carried out to bring in a new constitution to vituperate the JVP stating there is an attempt to divide the country and without stopping at that spreads the canard that there is a link between the JVP and the UNP.

It is not difficult to find out who really acts against the government’s anti-people’s moves – whether it is Mahinda Rajapaksa and his clique or the JVP. It is not difficult to understand that it is Mahinda Rajapaksa and his clique that acts in agreement with the likes of Ranil Wickremesinghe. However, Rajapaksa attempt to conceal the truth but spread the canard stating there is a so-called agreement between the JVP and the UNP. With the preparation for the local government elections as the JVP seems to be having an advantage at the election Rajapaksa clique makes all sorts of efforts to spread the canard and Ranil Wickremesinghe too acts in a manner that would validate the canard as it is advantageous to him. However, observing the moves minutely would expose who are genuine

opponents of the government and who has dealings with Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Currently, there exists a series of anti-government agitations and a wave of anti-government protests throughout the island. However, Rajapaksa clique cannot be seen in any of these protest movements. Their so-called opposition to the government is a strange one. There is a massive protest movement throughout the island demanding the government to abolish SAIMT illegal degree boutique. It is an anti-government movement. The JVP is massively involved in the movement but Rajapaksa clique cannot be seen anywhere near it. Also, the leadership of the farmers’ struggle against the government that has spread to all parts of the island is with the JVP not with the Rajapaksa clique. Rajapaksa cannot be seen in the struggle against the government carried out with the leadership of the JVP regarding the destruction caused by Uma – Oya multi-destructive project. It is not clear with what logical arguments the Rajapaksa clique that fails to give leadership to any anti-government struggle or has not made any contribution to any such struggles states that the JVP, the genuine leader of the

If people do correct things in the correct way socialism is not far away in Sri Lanka

Comrade K.D.Lalkantha
Political Bureau member of the JVP



RP. What is the latest situation of struggle against SAIMT?

LK. On November 06 a fast unto death campaign will be started demanding the closure of SAIMT. Protest campaigns will be started demanding the closure of SAIMT without taking lives of the people for victims. The fast unto death campaign is organized by the parents of the medical students of all 8 medical faculties. Our party and our trade union

movement are working with the 'Anti-SAIMT People's Wall' and struggle to force the government to abolish SAIMT and do justice to all students.

The policy of this government has become gradually selling education. Until a Socialist revolution, we cannot stop this selling education and health services. As the struggle against SAIMT continues the government is now attempting to introduce a

public-private partnership model to SAIMT. People should understand that lasting solution cannot be given to this issue unless a government that gives equal education opportunities to all is elected. That is the truth and education opportunities should not depend discriminately based on money and wealth. This society, this system is discriminating education and this is wrong and we have to change

this. If the people do the right thing at the right moment it can be done.

RP. How do you explain mobilizing the trade union movement against the economic policies of the government?

LK. Our trade union movement is working against the capitalist economic policies of the government. While working against that policy we are also working to form a socialist government. We are fighting along with the masses against day to day economic attacks of the government continuously. Currently, we are engaged in a struggle demanding a wage increase to compensate the increase in the cost of living that occurs during the present regime. To keep the living standard of the workers living on fixed monthly salary stable there should be a salary increase equal to the increase in the cost of living. Nobody can deny it. We are willing to get the other trade unions join us in this struggle. However, some trade unions are in shaky and don't take a firm stand and as a result, these struggles are dragging on without an end. We request the other trade unions to join hands keeping their identities separately and respecting them but unite in the common struggle. The agreement is important and there should be a joint struggle. Maithri-Ranil government is now implementing selling everything. As a result of peoples struggles some sectors have been saved. For instance, selling off under ETCA agreement with India was defeated by peoples' movements. In some instances, they have sold off national resources such as Hambantota harbour and adjoining lands where peoples' struggle was weak. People of this country should now have the determination to elect a progressive government at least in 2020 and until then we have to force the

government to delay the selling off. In this capitalist system selling off cannot be stopped and the only options are holding key positions and delay the selling off.

RP. How is the present situation of the 2020 program of the JVP?

LK. The answer to this question is long and there are many things to explain. I will tell you some essential points. 2020 General election should be won by the people and people should be free from both UNP and the SLFP clutches. If the people do not get modernized, we cannot modernize the country and the society and we will have to go back to the old dirty politics with the same old lot. New politics can be done only with new people, people fresh with new ideas and new thinking. It cannot be done without people becoming anew or fresh. Therefore our party is ready to guide the people for new politics and we request the people to become anew and fresh with progressive new ideas. We are formulating a new economic policy with the support of intellectuals and experts and they are also formulating a national plan to address long term, medium term and short-term issues the country has to be confronted with. We will present this policy and the plan for the people and it will be presented by a peoples' movement that asks for the mandate of the people and political power to implement it. That means we will request the power through a new peoples' movement. Now, we are collecting all the resources, material, instruments and human resources to build this peoples' movement. The upcoming local government election will also be used for some experiments in this regard.

RP. Why did you openly call for people to apply for JVP nominations in the local government election?

LK. We did it as

another step of the 2020 program. We are an organization that maintains a good political culture. It is an essential condition to build the country. The first-past-the-post voting system in the local government election can be used to bring a good political culture to the village. In the preferential voting system educated and intellectual people who do not want to engage in preferential voting "dog fights" did not like to enter into politics. Without a lot of money, they cannot contest and compete in the election because they had to run all over the division for the campaign. Under the previous preferential voting system, such people were isolated politically in the villages. There were no opportunities for ordinary youths, retired officers, progressive citizens or women to do a service to his or her native area or the society by getting elected to a local council. Now under the present election/ voting system, citizens can get an opportunity to serve his or her village. We can form peoples' forces, mobilize the strength of the people at the village level to rescue the country ruined by UNP and SLFP politics. Therefore we appeal to all the people to join with us to rebuild this country.

RP. People's opposition to the economic policies of the government is growing. Isn't it?

LK. Yes. Previously also they had the same policy. Peoples' protests mounted against previous governments as well. Even the 1980 general strike was a great serious protest. Workers struggles in Katunayake, fishermen's struggle in Chilaw arose at that time. The government that came to power in 1977 was defeated in 1994 with the promise that humane face will be given to the open economic policies. Then re-gaining Sri Lanka policies of Ranil

Catalonia at the threshold of separation

Catalonia's separatist government declared independence from Spain but at the same time, the national government in Madrid imposed direct rule on the region.

In a referendum held on 1st October, 90% backed independence - but opponents boycotted it. The turnout was just 43% and there were claims of irregularities. The Spanish government reacted by asking Spain's constitutional court to suspend the Catalan law, It also moved to take control of the region's finances and policing. In the clashes after the referendum, 890 people have been injured. Meanwhile, a judge in Spain has issued a European arrest warrant for former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and his cabinet colleagues who fled to Belgium after facing charges including sedition and rebellion.

Catalonia located on the north-eastern extremity of the Iberian Peninsula and has the Mediterranean Sea and France as its borders consists of four provinces: Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona. The capital and largest city is Barcelona and is the second most populous city in Spain. Catalonia is one of Spain's wealthiest and most productive



regions and has a distinct history dating back almost 1,000 years. It has its own language and a population of nearly 7.5 million. Catalonia has a land area of 32,108 km which is 6.3% of the land area in Spain and its population is 16% of the population in Spain. It accounts for 19% of Spain's GDP. It would have a gross domestic product of \$314 billion which would make it the 34th largest economy in the world. Before the Spanish Civil War, it enjoyed broad autonomy but that was suppressed under decades of Gen Francisco Franco's dictatorship from 1939-75.

Both Spanish and Catalan are the official languages in Catalonia. 46.53 of the population speak Spanish as

their mother tongue while 37.26 consider Catalan as their mother tongue. 11.95% of the population use both languages.

Catalonia existed as a separate administrative unit since 988 A.D.

The Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, still has the option of tackling the independence challenge by invoking article 155 of the Spanish constitution. The article, which has never been used, allows the Spanish government to step in and take control of an autonomous region if it "does not fulfil the obligations imposed upon it by the constitution or other laws, or acts in a way that is seriously prejudicial to the general interest of Spain".

When Spain became a

republic during 1931 – 39 period Catalonia became an autonomous region within Spain. After the Spanish civil war in 1939 during Gen. Franco's rule Catalonia was subjected to severe suppression. Its autonomous state was abolished and the use of Catalan language was totally banned. After Gen. Franco's death when Spain entered a democratic state again Catalonia was given autonomous status again.

The separatist movement in Catalonia gets a new life with the economic recession that affected the whole capitalist world in 2008. The Socialist coalition adorns power in Catalonia Autonomous Government and the central government agreed to grant more powers to Catalonia. It was implemented from 2006 and Catalonia was identified as a separate nation.

Between 2009 – 2011 Catalan communalists held several unofficial referendums to push for independence. However, Spain's Constitutional Court declared them unconstitutional.

In 2010 the provinces were taken over by nationalists. In 2013 the Autonomous Government the declaration of

sovereignty was approved in its parliament. Despite deciding for a referendum in November 2014, the Central Government declared it unconstitutional. In 2015 the parties that were clamouring for separation came to power again. The referendum held recently was decided by this government.

Catalonia separating from Spain is becoming another decisive incident in international politics. The USA and the EU have taken a stand not to recognize the independence of Catalonia. In 2015 Barrak Obama, then President, said the USA would not approve Catalonia separating from Spain. In the same year, EU stated it would not take in Catalonia. Meanwhile, NATO has already stated its naval presence in the Mediterranean Sea would be strengthened and have begun talks on how to expand its fleet in the Mediterranean. It is also reported that separatist groups in Catalonia have begun discussions on how they could link with NATO and how could they expand their naval military power. Whatever, it is many say separation would be disadvantageous for both Spain as well as Catalonia.

Message to the 19th National Congress of the CPC

Allow me, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front – JVP of Sri Lanka) and all the party members, well-wishers and sympathizers, who have followed with indescribable enthusiasm and great attention the progress of the people in People's Republic of China under the Communist Party of China to wish the Nineteenth National Congress of the fraternal Communist Party of China all the success and to express to you the most cordial revolutionary congratulations.

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), we believe, is a key event at a crucial time for the development of socialism with Chinese characteristic as Comrade Xi Jinping has said. We believe it would be another step forward in building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way by maintaining the continuity and consistency of policies of the Chinese Communist Party to ensure stable and healthy economic development. We believe the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will enhance the efforts the Chinese people are making to achieve greater heights in building a socialist, harmonious society, completing national unification and safeguarding world peace.

We are confident that the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China would guide the

people in China to develop more and more bonds with progressive and left minded people in the world that would ensure strength and support to struggles being carried out by downtrodden people in the world to win their rights. We are grateful to the support our party receives from the Communist Party of China in way of arranging study tours so that our comrades would have knowledge and experience of Socialism in practice. We have always attached great importance to developing ties with the CPC, the Chinese government and its people and believe the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will deepen the bilateral cooperation among progressive forces in the world and we pledge to continually develop and enrich relationships with the Communist Party of China and the people of China.

We wish further success to the Communist Party of China, to the people of China and are confident that the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China would mark a significant turning point in the fight for Socialism and Communism and world peace.

Long live the Communist Party of China!
Long live Marxism-Leninism!
Long live international solidarity!

Tilvin Silva,
General Secretary

Nepal: the left unified



Legislative elections will be held in Nepal in two phases on 26 November and 7 December 2017 to elect members of the 4th House of

Representatives, the lower house of the Federal Parliament. The candidate who obtains the support of the majority of members will become the next Prime Minister.

The left parties in Nepal have decided to form a coalition targeting the elections. The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) and Naya Shakti Party of Nepal have reached an election coalition with the intention of becoming a single party in the future. This was revealed to the media by them on 3rd October. They have signed a six-point agreement including building a common ideology, a common election manifesto and to select candidates which would be the base to combine the three parties into one political force. The merger would make the unified party the biggest political force in the country for next few years. They have agreed to name the unified party the 'Communist party of Nepal'.

Two-thirds of the people in Nepal are left oriented. However, due to division and conflict among the left parties the Nepali Congress had an advantage. However, with the decision to merge the Congress has been shaken and is preparing to form a coalition with other small parties.

The death knell of capitalism is ringing....

"In the Communist Manifesto Marx states, "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles". In all these societies there were struggles, revolutions and class struggles. All of them ended with the substitution of a new type of oppressor and a new type of exploitation. After the Paris Commune in 1871, the greatest revolution of ending exploitation in the human history occurred in 1917. Today, we are commemorating the centenary of this great Revolution. We should commemorate the Socialist Revolution in Russia forever. We, together with anti-imperialist, progressive and left movements, commemorate the centenary of the Great October Revolution. Ranil Wickremesinghe and Maithripala Sirisena too are preparing to commemorate the Revolution. They think it is an isolated incident like the birth of a Bandaranayake or a Senanayaka. They should really commemorate Tsar's rule. We ask Ranil – Maithri coalition not to insult the Great Russian Socialist Revolution.

It is indeed necessary to have a broad discussion on the struggle carried out by the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party, which later became the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, its struggle to get power, its tasks against counter-revolution, programmes launched to build Socialism, the contribution by the USSR for anti-imperialist struggles elsewhere in the world, the victories of the Soviet people, defeating fascism decisively, the fall of the Soviet Union with the beginning of the 1990 decade

and the world after the fall of the Soviet Union. We have begun this task at a time when the centenary of the Great October Revolution is commemorated. The Great October Revolution is not an isolated or a spontaneous occurrence. It is the result of a long-term struggle carried out by the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party lead by Comrade Lenin.

The Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party from its inception in 1903 until it came to power had to endure rightist opportunism on one side and ultra-left opportunism on the other that attempted to disrupt its revolutionary path. However, Comrade Lenin was able to defeat all types of opportunisms and deploy correct strategies to direct the CPSU towards Socialist Revolution. We, of the JVP, have confronted such bitter experiences as well. There have been instances in our movement too when rightist opportunist tendencies have surfaced. We have defeated them. Today, these cliques can only whine hiding in Rajapaksa's lap.

With the beginning of the first world war in 1914 Russia was entangled in there were famines; mountains of dead soldiers. Farmers were severely oppressed. Lenin thought how such a devastated people could be rallied with the revolutionary strategies of the party. The slogan 'land for farmers, peace for soldiers and bread for people' was put forward. 2/3rd of the lands in the country belonged to Tsar's family, the church and aristocrats. The Russian Revolution was made

The keynote address by Comrade Anura Dissanayaka, the Leader of the JVP at the main rally held to celebrate the Centenary of the Great October Revolution held at Viharamahadevi Park on 29.10.2017. The rally and the musical show were the final events of a two day programme of an exhibition depicting achievements by the Socialist Soviet Union, street dramas, painting competitions and discussions of Soviet Literature.

successful by building, instead of the left movement that was isolated, a common people's movement that was linked to the needs of the people. In our party, too, there was a small clique that attempted to drag the party to the position of doing politics in a crucible instead of attempting to win masses. We are indeed happy that we were able to defeat all sorts of opportunisms at a time when we are commemorating the centenary of the Great October Revolution.

The October Revolution had a political party with a correct ideology and discipline. In our country too we have built a disciplined party that moves forward on a correct path. It is the duty of all of us who are gathered here today to dedicate ourselves to achieve our final goal of Socialism. We should become the receivers of the experiences of the Great October Revolution to make the Revolution in Sri Lanka victorious.

The extremely serious challenge a communist party



is accredited with is making Socialism which exists only as a concept a reality. Today, we have a lot of experiences of Socialist Revolutions in the world. However, the main challenge the Bolshevik Party was confronted with in 1917 was making Socialism that was in the conceptual world a practical one. By 1921 counter-revolution was defeated and the plan was implemented to take the victories of the Russian Socialist Revolution to the Russian people and the people in the world.

Victories were achieved in education, industries, science and agriculture through great transformations. They were not isolated plans or achievements. In our country, the research connected with agriculture is not linked to farmlands. Ample research has been carried out regarding post-harvest waste and storing and preserving the harvest. However, vegetables are buried using back-hoe machines. Education, economy, developing social lives are stringently connected to science. However, in our country, the Ministry of Agriculture is not aware of what the Ministry of Irrigation does. The Ministry of trade doesn't know what the Ministry of Agriculture does. The people in Russia achieved victories through the Russian Socialist revolution as a result of planned socio-economic policies.

Also, all victories of Russia's economy were distributed to the whole world. The literacy rate in Russia before the Revolution was 24%. It was 2% in Kirgizia. Such countries that had been oppressed and exploited by Tsar increased their literacy rate to 75% twenty years after the Revolution. By 1970 it had increased to 99%. A state cannot be developed without an education that could comprehend the society. Education is only a commercial item for our rulers. SAIMT owner has been allowed to sell medical degrees and earn profits. What is done through Socialism is to provide new knowledge and new education

to achieve victories for human beings. Special schools, adult education were developed and a decision had been taken at the Congress of the Communist Party to broaden the teaching of science, Mathematics and Technology.

During the 1960 – 1980 period 80% of new inventions in Mathematics were owned by the Socialist Soviet Union. 'Mir' space station was sent into orbit and obtained outstanding victories connected with space. A society that was ailing with poverty and illiteracy was taken up towards victories in space.

At the 40th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, the Soviet Union was able to send into orbit the first satellite. In 1959 the first living thing – Laika the bitch, orbited the Earth in a Soviet craft. In 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space and Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space in 1963. By 1970 the Soviet Union was 15 years ahead of the USA in space exploration.

In ten Olympic Games held between 1958 and 1990, the Soviet Union won the most number of Olympic medals on six occasions. When development of industries is compared during the period from 1917 to 1957 the USA had a development of 3.5%, England 1.9%, France 3.2% while the Soviet Union achieved over 10% every year. With the development of industrial sector, agricultural sector, fine arts, literature in the Soviet Union it was able to provide the whole world with great victories in those sectors. Only Socialism could achieve such victories. The Soviet Union provided these victories to the masses while fascism begun by Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany was gobbling the whole world.

According to statistics, 50 million died in the second world war. 20 million of them were people and soldiers of the Socialist Soviet Union. It was the Soviet Union that fulfilled the



The death knell...

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exceptional task of defeating fascism. The whole Nation directly confronted the struggle. What would have happened to the world if not for the Soviet Union? We believe this should be studied by social scientists. There was a massive economic depression throughout the world in 1929. However, the Socialist Soviet Union was able to maintain a healthy economic growth. As such, the victories provided for the human race by the Great October Revolution are immeasurable.

The Soviet Union was fraternally behind all struggles that occurred in countries such as Cuba, Laos, Nicaragua and Yugoslavia and dedicated itself to the victories of these struggles. After the victories of the Socialist Revolutions, the Soviet Union aided those countries and provided knowledge, technology free to such countries. Support was given even to periphery countries that were trapped in the imperialist guillotine. An economic co-operation agreement was signed between Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union on 25th February 1958. With this, there was a close relationship between the two countries. After the space travel on 12th April 1961, Yuri Gagarin visited Sri Lanka on 7th December 1961. Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space, visited Sri Lanka on 23rd November 1963. Socialist hands were extended with intense brotherhood to states that were exploited by imperialism.

The Lumumba University was begun in February 1960. At the beginning, 2000 students from 84 countries were given scholarships. Later this was increased to 4000. Many such scholarships were given to countries like ours. In 1962 we were given Oruwala Steel Factory. We were given Kelani Tyre Factory and a flour mill at Mutwal. What has happened to them now? East Germany gave the country textile factories at Thulhiriya and Maththegoda. Yugoslavia gave us Veyangoda textile factory. A cotton project necessary to produce cloth was started at Hambanthota. The whole Socialist system of countries supported the periphery countries. Mahinda Rajapaksa gave 'Dole' company in the US 5000 acres to plant plantains to Europeans. However, Russia started the cotton project at Hambanthota for

textile production at Thulhiriya, Maththala and Veyangoda. A cold storing facility was given to Kandy. Today, there is no trace of this project. The Socialist Soviet Union also gave a planetarium to Colombo. The Soviet Union has given the developing world many gifts. They were the production of the people in a Socialist state.

What imperialism does is to exploit people throughout the world. It plunders our resources. The Socialist Soviet Union gave the world a fine example of humanity, brotherhood and equality. We ask those who spread falsehoods about Socialism to study it correctly before coming to conclusions. There are a few critics in our country as well who say Socialism is a failure.

The Soviet Union that provided the world with extra special victories collapsed with the beginning of the 1990 decade due to internal rifts and external conspiracies. Many who had high hopes of Socialism fell mentally. There was talk about globalization with the USA as its pivot. Many started saying the world entered a new capitalist stage after 1991. What has actually happened? The economic recession started from the golden cradle of capitalism, the USA, in 2008. Hundreds of thousands lost jobs and many committed suicides. It was President Bush who had to moan the woes of the USA to the world. It was the head of the central bank that lamented the tragedy in England. What does the fall of Greece and Spain indicate? It is the massive economic breakdown that has extended towards partitioning of Spain. We see with our own eyes the breakdown of imperialists' states. The statistics revealed by the WHO indicate the magnitude and intensity of the disaster. Exactly half of the capital produced by the working masses in the world is partaken by only 1% of the world population. 97% of world capital is owned by 30% of the population. 70% of the population inherits only 3% of the world's capital. This indicates how economically vicious capitalism is.

The world population is 7600 million. The daily income of half of this population is less than US\$2.5. In Sri Lanka, the daily income of 43% of the population is less than US\$2. 1300 million of the world population earns only US\$1.25 daily. Due to the economic discrepancy, 1000 million children in the world

live in utter poverty. 20 children die daily of hunger. 165 million children under 5 years suffer from malnutrition. 9 million children under five years die every year. Despite there is massive development in science and technology, one million people die of malaria. The main reason for deaths in the world is the shortage of food. The technology had developed to get 50 litres of milk per day from a cow and 300 bushels of paddy from an acre of paddy field. The harvests of new products have been increased in many folds. A massive food revolution has been carried out. However, most of the people in the world die of hunger.

All these indicate nothing else but that capitalism has utterly failed on a world scale. It has proved that capitalism cannot take the world further anymore. Capitalism, in its short period of existence, has proved that it is the most failed period in world history. What it means is nothing else but that the people in the world should rally to build Socialism. We, of the JVP, are fulfilling this task in Sri Lanka.

What we need now is not a mere change of government. At a time when we commemorate the Great October Revolution, our task is to come forward to raise high the flag of Socialism against the broken down, weak capitalism. We have been handed over the task of taking the leadership for such an endeavour. We, of the JVP, have to take the initiative, with experiences of the Great October Revolution, to fulfil the pioneering task of carrying out a refreshing transition. We are at a threshold of a very favourable phase. All enemy camps are in crisis. As the enemy has been weakened, it has intensified its vituperations.

As Comrade Lenin has said a revolutionary movement cannot think of the future without winning the trust of the majority. What the Socialist Revolution needs is the trust of the excessive majority. We have to build the broadest center that incorporates all. The death wails of capitalism can be heard everywhere today. The dawn of Socialism is approaching. Let's absorb the experiences of the Great October Revolution to make our task successful. We all have a task to fulfil in making the Socialist Revolution in Sri Lanka successful. We invite all people in this country to join us to fulfil this task."

The truth about...

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anti-government struggles, acts accordance with the government! All logical arguments against the government and criticism are carried out in Parliament by the JVP. It is the JVP, not the Rajapaksa clan, that has carried out the strongest protests against the bond scam, frauds carried out when constructing highways and in all budget debates. Parliamentarian Mahinda Rajapaksa was not seen in Parliament when the vote for the budgets was taken on two occasions. He never made any strong criticism against the budget in parliament. Rajapaksa clique has made a rumpus in Parliament only for their own interests. Once they made a big din in Parliament demanding the post of Leader of the Opposition and also they made a big commotion when the process of legal action against fraud and corruption was being taken against them. Rajapaksas prefer to keep mum when people's issues are discussed. This is the truth. However, some think the clique is anti- government!

On the other hand, it is obvious that there is an understanding between Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa and Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe from the way legal action is taken against fraud, corruption and waste. There are many instances to prove it. It is a public secret that former Minister Weerawansa, who was remanded for misuse of ministry assets and was attempting to get out as he could not endure the prison term, could get bail as a result of a meeting between Mahinda and Ranil. Also, it is another public secret that the former President's Secretary Lalith Weeratunga, who was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment with Anusha Palpita for distributing 'Sil' clothes during the presidential election could get bail within 10 days as the Attorney General did not object to the bail application due to the mediation of Ranil Wickremesinghe. It is also a public secret that Namal Rajapaksa's former secretary arrested in Abu Dhabi brought back to Sri Lanka and was handed over to the FCID was able to get 'bail' from Court due to the intervention of stalwarts of the government. For, Namal Rajapaksa and many in the Mahinda faction are able to enjoy their 'freedoms' thanks to 'bail' from Ranil Wickremesinghe. Those who escape from being imprisoned due to 'bail' from Wickremesinghe' shouting that the JVP has dealings with Ranil Wickremesinghe is not a simple joke but a crafty dealing.

It is true that Rajapaksas suffer from power hunger. It is also true they are scared of being imprisoned. As such, the dealing they have with the UNP is not one of resentment but that of sustenance. Their anti-government stance is a pretension. Their real hostility is not with the government but with the JVP that prevents them from filling the void when the government is sent home by the people as it is the JVP that rallies masses, left and progressive forces to build a people's government. The future of the country would be definitely auspicious if the majority in the country realizes this absolute truth.

If people do correct...

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Wickramasinghe was defeated. Today, farmers living in Ampara and Monaragala are suffering from sugarcane cultivation and the sugarcane farmers are continuously struggling against slavery in the industry. People in Bibile, Rideemaliyadda and Medagama are struggling against land acquisition for sugarcane cultivation and this struggle is spreading in Badulla, Monaragala and Ampara districts. The struggle against SAIM too is against economic policies. There are plenty of struggles and it is a good condition. We have to escalate them further. We do it as it is our responsibility.

RP. Under these conditions what would be the future of the country?

LK. The future is a struggle. Firstly, there will be protest campaigns and at the end of such struggles, there will be a peoples' rule and government. The economy is collapsing continuously. Society is collapsing. Crimes, drug addiction are increasing rapidly. An outcast society has already been established where anything will be done for money. Now the era of earning money even by killing dogs has gone and now it is ready to murder for money. This is a rotten society. Now nobody can live here in this society. Realizing this, we should form forces for a new society. Socialism is the only answer.



Opening of the Exhibition



Musical show



Launching of books & literary discussion



The main commemoration ceremony

