

Country needs General Election

While the debate in the media and on various platforms is regarding which election should be held next, the JVP emphasize that the general election should be held immediately to get over the anarchy and instability the country has been dragged to at present.

Currently, the standpoint of the people does not correctly reflect in Parliament. What exists is a distortion of the public representation. The present government is a minority government. There is also a conflict between the

President and the Prime Minister. As a result, the country has been further pushed to the brink of anarchy and instability. Holding the general election which is a national election is the most appropriate process at the moment to change

this situation and get a clear reflection of the mandate of the people.

During the recent conspiracy to topple the government, the President, as well as Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, reiterated that a general election should be held. It seems they have, now, lost the enthusiasm they had about the general election. For, they are now thinking about the elections that would be advantageous for them. However, holding

a general election soon is a necessity for democracy in the country. The public too endorsed such an election at the time the conspirators were clamouring for it.

As such, the JVP emphasizing that the country, burdened with the colossal socio-economic crisis and further handicapped with the political crisis and instability, asks for a general election, stresses that a proposal should be passed in Parliament with a 2/3rd

majority to give the people an opportunity to elect a new administration.

Speaking to 'Red Power' the Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath said instead of wasting public money to hold a presidential election for a post that should be abolished, holding a general election would give the opportunity to assay which group should be handed over the administration of the country.



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The true story of ‘independence’...

Sri Lanka will mark 71 years of receiving the so-called independence on 4th February this year. Like in every other year the commemoration of independence on the 4th February will be restricted to a mere state ceremony of a few hours and then forgotten until the 4th February next year.

What is ‘National Independence’? The real meaning of ‘National Independence’ is not only political freedom but freedom in all sectors including the economic, social, cultural as well as personal freedom. However, the country or the masses in Sri Lanka are not really independent with regard to any of the above sectors. The economy of the country has been tied on one hand to the imperialist multi-national capital and on the other has been buried under a colossal debt mountain. The same rulers, who leased Hambanthota Harbour to China as they couldn’t find any other way to settle the debt, commemorating ‘independence’ is nothing but a tragedy.

Politics in Sri Lanka is no different. It is manipulated at times by western countries. At times India takes the cane and on other occasions, China calls the tune through loans. In such an environment, how could we call ourselves independent?

Sri Lanka is a country that has been made ideologically as well as culturally dependent. This is the truth. Capitalist political leaders, as well as many among the general public, do not genuinely love their country or honour the independence of their country. Their patriotism is a deception. They still adore developed countries in the West. Their dreams are not in ‘independent’ Sri Lanka but about countries such as the USA, Canada and the UK. This is why many Sri Lankan political leaders have become US citizens and are not prepared to renounce citizenship. As such, present Sri Lanka is a dependent country physically as well as spiritually. It’s a country where submissive people exist.

On the other hand, considering or commemorating 4th February as the day the country received independence is not correct. There was no forceful national liberation struggle in the country. There was no national independence struggle against colonialism here unlike the independence struggles carried out in India and other countries. The so-called independence in Sri Lanka is not the result of a national independence struggle but what the British rulers handed over to our rulers on a platter. Sri Lanka did not completely gain ‘independence’ from colonial administration in 1948. Then, what did we get? From being a colony belonging to the British Empire we became a victim of Neo-colonialism. The British kept us on a tether. Sri Lanka was a state under England’s queen until 1972.

What was the accusation against those who took part in the uprising in 1971? It was conspiring and rebelling against the Queen’s government. It means Sri Lanka, even in 1971, was a country under British queen’s rule.

What actually took place in 1948 was handing over limited power to an obedient group trained and adapted according to the whims and fancies of colonialists to prevent ‘Ceylon’ being liberated by a genuine liberation struggle as the world was throbbing with left politics and achievements of Socialism at the time. The country was handed over to brown sahibs.

The rulers in Sri Lanka have been always dependent. This spreads like an epidemic on the masses. People’s mentality too becomes dependent. They have no will or are not prepared to stand with their feet. The capitalist rulers in Sri Lanka act as agents of powerful countries. They kneel before world powers for money, privileges, power and loans and have got the country down on its knees as well. The country has been mortgaged. In such an environment bragging about independence is a joke and a farce.

Sri Lanka should genuinely achieve national independence. As such, there is a stringent need to free the masses for a new independence struggle- to liberate the masses from the influence of the imperialist global capital, from mental slavery and dependency. This could be achieved not with pro-imperialist capitalist rulers but by a genuine mass struggle that would defeat them and their bosses. There isn’t any other way to win genuine independence. This is the most opportune time for it.

JVP condemns the move to implant a renegade as president in Venezuela

In a message, JVP condemned the reactionary move to recognize a person not elected by the people as the president of Venezuela to replace duly elected President Nicolas Maduro.

The message:

It is with revolutionary solidarity we, the JVP, stand with Venezuelan people at this time of their fight against the coup of the right-wing reactionaries of Venezuela that has been carried out with the unholy support of imperialism led by the US reactionaries. The progressive people in the world, who are fully aware of the fiendish attempts of imperialism led by the US to dominate the world by grabbing resources belonging to the people, fully back Comrade Nicolas Maduro, the legally elected President of Venezuela and is recognized by all peace loving people in the world.

It should also be mentioned that Former US President Jimmy Carter had stated: “of the 92 elections that they had monitored, the election process in Venezuela was the best in the world”. Venezuela’s voting technology is said to contain several security mechanisms for audits and verification of results, which have been accredited by national and international observers including the Carter Center.

In such an atmosphere Juan Guaido, who had studied at George Washington University in the United States and who didn’t even contest election held on 20 May 2018, has arbitrarily declared himself President which has been rejected by Supreme Tribunal of Justice in Venezuela. However, US imperialists together with several countries that back any provocative act carried out by US imperialists on the pretext of peace, human rights and democracy, are backing the self-proclaimed president and the unholy move.

The progressive people in the world, recognizing President Nicolas Maduro as the constitutionally and democratically elected president of Venezuela, encourage the progressive masses in Venezuela to rally with Maduro and his government to defeat the arbitrary and authoritarian act of renegade Guaido, which corresponds with the unholy agenda of US imperialists and its lackeys.

The JVP, as the principal political party of the progressive and left-oriented people in Sri Lanka totally back the progressive people’s struggle against US imperialism and expresses its solidarity with the heroic resistance of the Venezuelan people to protect the Bolivarian Revolution led by late Hugo Chávez.

Long live Bolivarian Revolution!

Long live Proletarian Internationalism!

With Revolutionary greetings,

Department of Foreign Relations of the Political Bureau of the JVP

With the beginning of the year, many named it the 'election year'. For, according to the Constitution two elections – provincial council election and the presidential election – should be held within this year. Nevertheless, during the coup committed on the 26th October to switch power the Maithripala – Mahinda faction called for a general election to be held immediately. However, it is the responsibility of the people in the country to get prepared for the most suitable election for the people and to uphold democracy.

The presidential election is not an election that needs to be held during this year. What is necessary is to abolish the despotic and undemocratic executive presidential system instead of spending time, money and energy for the futile and perilous position majority of the people have rejected several times. Already, the 20th amendment to the Constitution that makes this effort easy has been entered in the order book of Parliamentary. Also, there are people's movements, agitations and various other programmes demanding the authorities to abolish executive presidential system. Many in the country do not ask for a presidential election but they ask for the harmful executive presidency to be abolished.

On the other hand, the main pledge of the President at the presidential election was abolishing presidential system. He reiterated that there wouldn't be another presidential election during his term and he would be the last executive president in the country. Ranil and Mahinda too have pledged that they would abolish executive presidential system. The aspiration of the 6.2 million voters at the 2015 presidential election was to abolish executive presidency. As such, talking about a presidential election now is a betrayal of the mandate and the aspirations of the people. What should be done now is to abolish executive presidential system immediately. It is not the general public but the power hungry capitalist political leaders who are craving for a presidential

Election year & the general election



election. Ranil is one who craves for presidential powers. Those in Mahinda's camp also starve for presidential powers and are clamouring for a presidential election. However, the general public is not concerned as they have more important issues to pay attention to. As such, creating a dialogue about holding a presidential election is not ethical. The topic that should be brought to the fore is abolishing the executive presidency despised by a majority of the people in the country.

If so, what is the election that should be held this year? Already, provincial councils of 6 provinces have lapsed. The term of three more provincial councils will expire soon. Hence, it is time the provincial council elections are held. However, the government manipulation has blocked holding the due elections. A new electoral system (mixed electoral system

sans preferential system) was introduced and the Provincial Councils Act was amended in a bid to hold fair elections. However, the government failed to carry out the delimitation process correctly. They themselves defeated in Parliament the report by the Delimitation Commission they themselves appointed. Mahinda faction that clamours for provincial council elections also voted against the report. Holding elections for provincial councils is now trapped in a technical issue. It is now necessary to carry out corrections to demarcation of ward boundaries and get it approved in Parliament. The government doesn't seem to be concerned about this. For, the UNP government is reluctant to confront provincial council elections. Of course there is a possibility of getting a resolution passed in Parliament with a 2/3rd majority to hold

the election under the old system. However, this should be avoided. For, the new electoral system was adopted in Parliament as the old system was erroneous. As such, what is necessary to be done is to prepare the ground to hold the elections under the new system. However, the chance of holding provincial council elections is bleak.

On the other hand, even if the provincial council elections are held, it would not reflect the standpoint of the people of the whole country. For, it would be held only in a few provinces. Also, the provincial council elections would not put right the political instability, the anarchy and the distortion that exists in parliament. What is really needed at present is giving the people an opportunity to correct the distortion of the composition in Parliament. Currently, the country is ruled by a minority government. The

mandate of the people has been distorted. The country is in a state of anarchy. This is what has to be corrected first. It is only through a general election that the standpoint of the people in the country could be gauged. As such, the responsibility of the present Parliament is to give the people the opportunity to express their views at a general election.

There is another matter that should be taken into consideration. When President Maithripala Sirisena hatched the conspiracy to switch power and announced a general election, he told the people that the country immediately needed a general election. Mahinda Rajapaksa camp too reiterated that the burning issue at the moment was a general election. However, once the conspiracy was defeated their noise about the general election ceased. They should repeat their clamour for a general election now. For, Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe too spoke, once the conspiracy came to an end, about his desire to hold a general election.

What was the standpoint of the JVP at this point? At the time the Parliament was unconstitutionally dissolved the JVP opposed the illegal and unconstitutional manner it was done. The JVP never opposed holding a general election. Also, the JVP was against such a move as a strategy to bring victory to the conspiracy to grab power. The stand of the JVP from the outset was that the conspiracy to grab power should be defeated, the 20th amendment should be adopted immediately and then a general election should be held. For, the existing Parliament does not have the ability to bring in a new constitution nor can it salvage the country from the abyss it has been dragged to. As such, time has come to hold a general election.

A 2/3rd majority in Parliament is necessary to hold a general election before the due time. The issue that came up against such a move was that new Parliamentarians would not be in favour of the move. For, they would have to be

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Red Power:
An organization
named 'The
People's
Movement to
Abolish Executive
Presidency' was
created. As you
are one of the
founders, could
you talk about its
inception and its
function?

Comrade

Lal Kantha: The conspiracy that began on the 26th October and continued for 52 days to unconstitutionally grab power was committed jointly by Maithripala Sirisena and Mahinda Rajapaksa factions.

Various organizations that cherish democracy and struggle for a righteous society opposed the conspiracy and came forward against it from the very moment the conspiracy was hatched. We carried on the struggle against the conspiracy with them. This struggle continued as agitations as well as legal action against the sordid act. However, a certain group in the campaign abandoned the struggle to win democracy as soon as Ranil Wickremesinghe got back the premiership. Those who had lost their positions and privileges due to the toppling of Ranil Wickremesinghe government and certain individuals who wished Ranil Wickremesinghe to be the Premier gave up the struggle in that manner.

However, those social groups, organizations and individuals who more broadly struggled on behalf of democracy continue the struggle. All these groups and individuals believe that abolishing

Reactionary forces can never stop the forward march of the world

Comrade Lal Kantha

Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP

executive presidency is an essential factor in the struggle to win democracy. With this common interest within these groups and as a result of the dialogue that occurred among all of us 'The People's Movement to Abolish Executive Presidency' was born. We hope to get more groups and individuals who oppose Maithri – Ranil – Mahinda undemocratic force to join us. Of course, there are new additions to the movement almost daily. We have already carried out several moves and more moves have been scheduled.

Red Power:
On the 14th the struggle to abolish executive presidency was taken to the streets. There is no doubt that a broad people's struggle on several fronts would be necessary in addition to the mediation of your movement. Could you deliberate on

this?

Comrade Lal Kantha: Today, the struggle to win democracy has become a foremost issue in the country. The groups that have rallied at present clearly agree with one factor. It is to become a massive force that marches forward with left and progressive forces and all groups that struggle against the Maithri – Ranil – Mahinda alliance. Now, all those who agree have gathered together, have discussions and have formulated a programme. Many groups that cherish democracy and want to protect it have rallied around this organization. There are many others who have expressed their desire to work with us.

This is really a struggle that should be extended from national level to the grassroots level. For, in the struggle to achieve the fundamental objectives such as independence, brotherhood and equality the struggle

for democracy is paramount. Now, we have formulated and scheduled a programme to make it a struggle that extends to the grassroots level.

On the 5th, the day after the so-called independence day, we have prepared an agitation with several new activities to be carried out in Colombo participated by the heads of all the organizations who have rallied with this movement. Also, we have organized a similar programme at Gampaha on the 15th. We hope to have similar programmes in other districts as well. People are realizing the need for such a struggle and are combining the struggles carried out by farmers, workers and students with the struggle to abolish the executive presidency. Already 10 trade unions have formed a trade union collective against the executive presidency. The struggle to abolish executive presidential system



could be victorious only if all these groups could be brought together and a united struggle carried out.

The main objective of this movement is to build a strong front to get the executive presidential system abolished and protect democracy. We believe that democracy cannot be restricted to what has been introduced in the Constitution but the struggle must continue to achieve total emancipation of man. This organization is built with this as its vision.

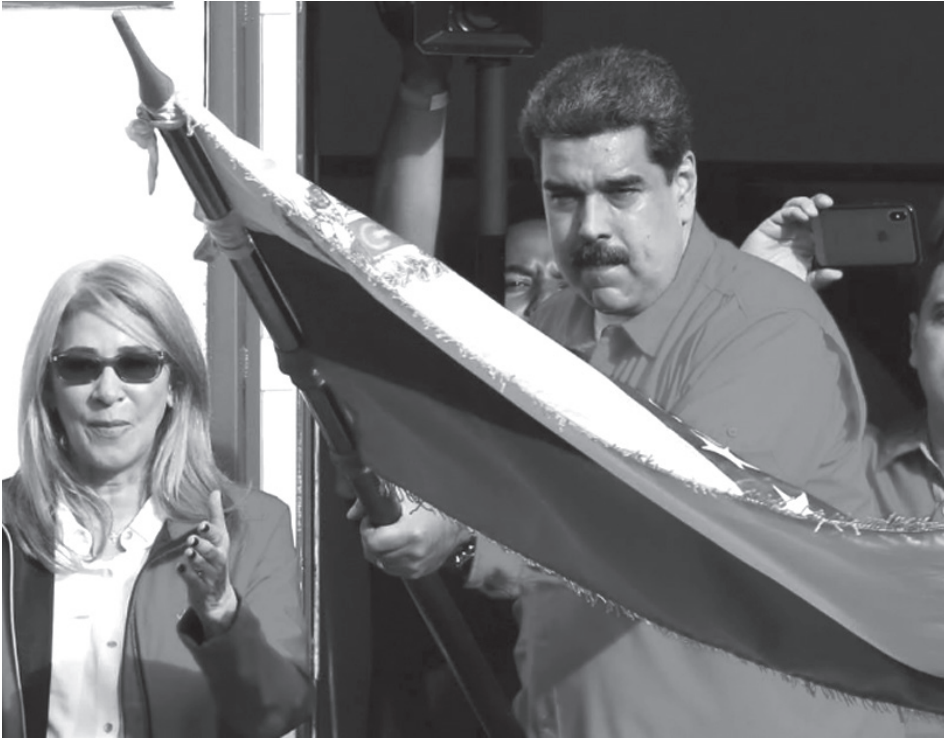
Red Power:
Will abolishing executive presidency become, at a future presidential election, another promise of those

who have already broken promises?

Comrade Lal Kantha: The UNP has already asked for a 2/3rd majority at the next general election for them to abolish executive presidency and bring in a new constitution. This is another attempt to deceive the masses. People should not allow Ranil Wickremesinghe or the UNP to deceive them again. They would never mediate to uphold democracy. Ranil Wickremesinghe would be too happy to have the executive presidency in his hand. He can never be believed. Maithri and Mahinda are individuals who have already broken the promises they

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Trump's manipulation is to plunder Venezuela's resources...



Juan Guaidó, the 35-year-old head of the national assembly declared himself- "interim president" on 23rd January 2019 and was immediately recognized by US President Trump and was welcomed by the US, Canadian and a dozen Latin American governments. US president Donald Trump also said he would use the "full weight" of US economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela's democracy.

The majority in Venezuela's Parliament is with the opposition. Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for his second term two weeks ago. As such, he has 6 more years to function as the President of the country. The election commission in Venezuela and commanders of security forces recognize Maduro as the President of the country.

Britain, France, Israel and 16 Organization of American States which is headquartered in the United States capital Washington, D.C recognize Guaidó, who had said he would sell state assets and invite private investment in the energy industry, as the president of Venezuela while majority of the countries including Russia, China, Syria, Cuba, Iran and 18 countries in Organization of American States support Maduro.

oil and gas companies as well. Meanwhile, several countries including Mexico, Russia and Iran expressed their willingness to act as a mediator between the Venezuelan government and its opposition. However, the US has instructed the Venezuelan opposition not to go for an interim peace until Maduro is toppled. However, UN Special Rapporteur for sanctions Idriss Jazairy says that the United States' attempt to topple the Venezuelan government with an oil embargo is illegal and will have grave humanitarian consequences.

Meanwhile, Supreme Court in Venezuela opened an investigation against the self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaidó, saying he violated "constitutional order and he was barred from leaving the country.

Rallies, agitations and demonstrations are held separately in Venezuela expressing support to Maduro and to Guaidó. Maduro speaking to the Nation said not to allow Venezuela to become another Vietnam. The possibility of Venezuela being invaded by Trump's forces has not been cast away by international organizations. In Columbia, adjacent to Venezuela, there are 7 US military camps and 3 of them are very close to the border.

The progressive organizations in the world state the intention of the Trump administration is not establishing democracy in Venezuela but the plunder of its assets and natural resources. Venezuela is a country rich in oil, gas and gold reserves. According to an entry in CIA's 'World Factbook' on 1.1.2017, Venezuela has the largest oil and gas deposits in the world (300,900,000,000 BBL of crude oil & 5,701,000,000,000 cu m of gas). In addition, it has numerous gold reserves. In 2018 alone 30 areas with gold deposits have been found in Venezuela. It has the second largest gold stockpile in the world. Despite imposing sanctions on it, Venezuela was able to increase its non-oil exports by 200%. Venezuela exports gold to Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Britain, Turkey and Eurasian countries.

India: Education in left Kerala on top



Kerala topped the Education Development Index (EDI) among 21 major states in India in the year 2006-2007. In January

2016, Kerala became the 1st Indian state to achieve 100% primary education through its literacy programme Athulyam. The importance and level of education in Kerala could be gauged by the state's ranking as among the most literate in the country.

According to the annual report on education standards in India in 2018 it has been revealed that the education level in Kerala state that has a left administration is in a very high standard. Kerala state in India is ruled by a left coalition headed by Marxist Communist Party of India.

There are no private schools in Kerala from 2014 and it is reported that Kerala is the best state in Mathematics in India and has shown best results in pre-school, preliminary, secondary and higher level school results. The report states the education level in the state has gone up remarkably as the administration took special attention on education and infrastructure development.

Germany: commemorating founders of Communism in Germany



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Dilapidated and decayed politics that divide and create demons should be rejected



“This Parliament has no ability to adopt a new constitution. As such, the public need not get caught to the fabrications spread by religious extremists and communalists to conceal their bankruptcy. They should strive to build national unity. We saw a sensitive example regarding such national unity in Kandy recently. We saw a person who dropped his children and his wife from a 6 storied blazing building to save them from burning. It was a Tamil family. The Muslim and Sinhalese masses who were on the ground saved the family using bed sheets and whatever they could find to save them. The people in the country do not have religious or communal differences. What we say is a constitution should establish fundamental rights of

all people. We would strive to achieve such a constitution in Parliament as well as outside it. We emphasize that the masses need not get deceived by the politics of the dilapidated and the decayed that create demons and talk of dividing the country,” said the Information Secretary of the JVP Comrade Vijitha Herath speaking at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP at Pelawatta yesterday (13th). The Member of the Central Committee of the JVP Attorney at Law Comrade Sunil Watagala was also present.

Comrade Vijitha Herath said, “The dialogue about a new constitution has been renewed in the country. Certain individuals create fake communal demons about this. As such, we are holding this

press conference to disclose the standpoint of the JVP regarding this situation.

The existing constitution is 40 years old. The world has changed. Sri Lanka too has gone through many changes. We have always stood with the standpoint that a new constitution should be formulated to suit the new conditions and the present society. Our stand from the very beginning was that the new constitution should include facts to abolish executive presidency, develop national unity and find a solution for the national question, establish rights of various communities and protect fundamental rights of all.

The dialogue about a new constitution commenced in 2015. The whole Parliament

became a Constitutional Council. Also, a Steering Committee was created with representatives of political parties. Under this sub-committees were appointed. The JVP, as a political party got its MPs to represent all these instances. This is not a new situation. During Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa’s term in July 2009 an all-party summit was held to formulate a new constitution. The JVP too participated in this summit. Such committees receive various types of views and proposals. There were such proposals presented to the all-party summit in 2009 as well. An all-party representative committee was appointed to have further discussions. We also participated in it. A scholarly committee was appointed to

further discuss the proposals by the representatives’ committee. This representatives’ committee put forward a report as well. The process was the same as the present one.

A dialogue regarding a new constitution came up recently due to various arguments that came up regarding the compiling of the constitution with the reports of the steering committee and the sub-committees. We also took part in it. We continue to appear for a constitution that fulfills the fundamental conditions of abolishing executive presidency, introducing a new electoral system and protecting rights of all communities in the country. However, the committee of 21 appointed for this purpose could not come for a final agreement. As such, not even a draft for a new constitution has been forwarded yet. This was because various political parties could not come to a general consensus. As such, a scholarly committee was appointed to study the proposals. This committee has forwarded a document. It is not even a draft of a constitution. It’s only a series of proposals. There are groups that agree with the proposals as well as that do not agree with them. For example,, the JVP represents abolishing executive presidency. Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa’s group has not put forward any view. The SLFP has stated that it opposes abolishing executive presidency.

It is in such an environment that fakes demons of dividing the country, the east would be merged with the North type of fabrications are spread using temples and churches. However, this situation was cleared by a question asked by Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa himself in Parliament on Friday. He said there wasn’t a draft for a new constitution. It is in such a situation that lies are spread about the division of the country and about federalism being established in the country. It was also said that the constitution to divide the country would be passed on 4th February. It

Reactionary...

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have given to the people. All other citizens in the country will have to abandon the UNP, Maithri and Mahinda and their forces, rally with movements that genuinely expect to abolish executive presidency, strengthen democracy and put forward a candidate if such a necessity arises.

As the JVP, we have no right to tell the people to trust any other candidate other than one from our party. As such, the candidate of the united movement that would be created should be essentially a person put forward by the JVP and representing the Political Bureau of the JVP. We have no right to tell the people to have confidence in any other person. The people in the country too are now left with a journey that goes forward with this movement.

Red Power: What is the alternative the people are left with if the 20th amendment cannot be adopted before a presidential election and what is the preparedness of your movement for such an eventuality?

Comrade Lal Kantha: We should get the executive presidential system abolished and go for a new constitution that establishes a Parliamentary administrative system. It is under such a constitution that the fundamental law would include independence, equality and brotherhood. This country needs a new people's government. The only alternative we are left with is to rally all forces that could be rallied towards this goal and strive to achieve it. We are optimistic as we come across many who have the same goal and they rally with us.

We still believe that the 20th amendment could be adopted in Parliament. That's why it is necessary to exert pressure on the UNP. All those who rally with the UNP should pressurize their leadership. Any progressive-minded people with Mahinda Rajapaksa should make the members of the faction stand with the slogan to abolish executive presidency as Mahinda Rajapaksa can never become the President again. As such, we expect to get the 20th amendment adopted in this Parliament so that the executive presidential system could be abolished.

Also, there are several other serious issues that should be considered. What is supposed to exist in the country is a representative democracy. Representative democracy is a system where citizens of a country vote for government representatives to handle legislation and rule the country on their behalf. However, these representatives abandon the people who voted for them and cross over to another side. Then the principle of representative democracy is violated and it becomes a complete distortion. As such, a clause should be added to the Constitution so that those who cross over cannot be taken into a political party. Those who entertain a person who crosses over should be more responsible. It is only an individual who crosses over. However, it is an organization that accepts him. The political parties should have the morality, discipline and law to protect representative democracy. Else, the concept of democracy, the whole process breaks down.

In the 20th amendment we have presented, we have included a legal provision to halt crossing over. 20th amendment is one that has been presented with a broad look at democracy. It is concerned not only on abolishing executive presidency. It is prepared to broaden democracy. We have directed all our activities at present to get the 20th amendment adopted in Parliament. However, if this attempt fails we would rally with the necessary forces to march forward. Then it would be necessary to put forward a presidential candidate. However, we believe the struggle to broaden the scope of democracy would end in victory. Whatever attempts are made to obstruct, prevent and sabotage the people's movement, we are definite that no reactionary force can ever stop the forward march of the world. The end result will be the victory for people's struggle.

Dilapidated..

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was also said that any MP who raises his hand to adopt this constitution would be given Rs 400 million. It is the group that has got dilapidated and decayed in politics that are trying to salvage themselves via federalism. It is regretful to see that certain Buddhist priests are among this group.

The 20th amendment to the constitution too has been linked to create the federal demon. The two are not the same. We bring the 20th amendment to abolish executive presidency. However, a new constitution is a complete constitution. We know that even the UNP had attempted to create communal demons in connection with the 20th amendment. It has not stopped yet. The SLFP, Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa as well as Mr Sumanthiran of TNA are spreading the communal stories. Mr Sumanthiran said a new constitution would be passed before 4th February. We ask the masses not to be deceived by the fabrications spread by bankrupt politicians in the North as well as in the South. We know that a 'package' was brought to divide the country. We defeated it. Also, we were able to demerge the East from the North. We also defeated the attempt to bring in Post-Tsunami Operational

Management Structure (P-TOMS).

Certain people are talking about giving police and judicial powers. There are also proposals to merge the East and the North. The JVP opposes such moves.

Not even a draft for a constitution has been prepared during the last three years. Nothing would be done about it during the next 1 ½ years. It is only a time wasting project. This Parliament has no ability to adopt a new constitution. As such, the public need not get caught to the fabrications spread by religious extremists and communalists to conceal their bankruptcy. They should strive to build national unity. We saw a sensitive example regarding such national unity in Kandy recently. We saw a person who dropped his children and his wife from a 6 storied blazing building to save them from burning. It was a Tamil family. The Muslim and Sinhalese masses who were on the ground saved the family using bed sheets and whatever they could find to save them. The people in the country do not have religious or communal differences. What we say is a constitution should establish fundamental rights of all people. We would strive to achieve such a constitution in Parliament as well as outside it. We emphasize that the masses need not get deceived by the politics of the dilapidated and the decayed that create demons and talk of dividing the country."

Election year...

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Parliamentarians continuously for five years to be qualified for the pension scheme. However, according to the situation that has cropped up the present Parliament would not last five years. If the presidential election is held the person who gets elected, whoever it is, would dissolve Parliament using presidential powers as soon as it completes its 4 ½ years. As such, the new Parliamentarians do not have a special reason now to oppose holding the general election. Their

thought should not be the 'five years' they need for the pension but their contribution to get rid of the anarchic state the country has been dragged to.

The responsibility of all those who expect to strengthen and cherish democracy and think about the most advantageous election for the people in the country should prevent the country moving towards a presidential election. Either the executive presidency

should be abolished or the authorities should be pressurized to hold the general election before the presidential election. The only alternative before those who want to prevent giving another opportunity to executive presidential system is to struggle for a general election. All those forces that revere democracy should demand the government and the Parliament to hold the general election.



Commemorating Comrade Rosa Luxemburg



Supporting Estate Workers' struggle



Distributing school requirements to school children in the North



'Let's Read Lenin' organized by National Trade Union Center

'Abolish executive presidency'



A leaflet distribution campaign to apprise the public regarding the abolishing of executive presidency was held opposite Fort Railway Station on the 5th February.

The campaign was organized by the 'People's Movement to Abolish executive presidency' and was participated by several organizations including Journalists for a Righteous Society, Sri Lanka Young Journalists' Association, Ceylon Mercantile Union (CMU), Women for Ethical Politics, 'New Wings', The Left Center, Sri Lanka Intellectuals and Professionals Organization, 'Shining Hearts', 52nd Movement, National Intellectuals Organization (NIO), 'Maruthaye Handa (Voice of the Wind)', '71 Brotherhood Society', Aluth Parapura (New Generation) and 'Ramya Lanka'.

The President of National Trade Union Center and the Member of the Political Bureau of the JVP K.D. Lal Kantha, the National Organizer of the JVP Bimal Rathnayaka MP, the National Organizer of Socialist Youth Union (SYU) Eranga Gunasekera were also present.



To protect the 'External Degree'