

Gandhi Jails CIA Opposition

June 28 — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has ordered the arrest of hundreds of leaders of the opposition to her pro-Soviet, pro-development policies, following her declaration of a state of national emergency on June 26. Among those arrested were CIA agent Jayaprakash Narayan, the leaders of the fascist Jan Sangh party, and Narayan supporters from the right wing of Gandhi's own Congress Party.

With this move Gandhi has attacked head-on the network of CIA agents and open fascists which poses the major domestic barrier to the development program necessary to save India from destruction at Rockefeller's hands. The fight between pro-Soviet and pro-U.S. economic policies is now out in the open, and must be fought to the death.

Two weeks ago the CIA initiated a water-gating operation against Gandhi intended to set the stage for a full Chilean scenario. Gandhi was convicted on corruption charges by a local Indian court, charges which even the CIA press has described as "trifling" and based on nothing but technicalities. Under Indian law, however, she must give up the Prime Ministership unless the Supreme Court overturns the lower court verdict.

Narayan and his cohorts immediately pulled the entire web of CIA-run "opposition groups" — fanatic Hindu nationalists, Maoist crazies, Mahatma Gandhian "socialists" — into a howling fascist mob whose only program is to oust Gandhi and smash any hope of economic reconstruction in India. Gandhi countered the CIA's destabilization plot by calling out mass support for her development programs. At a rally attended by one million people Gandhi declared, "If poverty is to be banished, production must be stepped up.... We must move forward; there is no turning back."

On June 24 the Supreme Court ruled that Gandhi could continue as Prime Minister until the lower court case comes up for review by the full Supreme Court later this summer. The CIA opposition yowled in protest. Riots, looting, and burning were provoked in the most backward regions. Narayan, speaking at a rally on June 25, called on the army and police forces to mutiny against the government as part of a mass "civil disobedience" protest.

The next day Gandhi renewed the state of emergency which has officially existed in India since 1971 and ordered the arrest

of the leaders of the disruptions. "Certain persons have gone to the length of inciting our armed forces to mutiny and our police to rebel," she said in a radio broadcast announcing the move. "Forces of disintegration are in full play and communal passions are being aroused.... A threat to internal stability also affects production and prospects of economic improvement."

Who Is Gandhi's Opposition?

Kingpin of the CIA opposition and among the first to be arrested is notorious agent Jayaprakash Narayan, who has been on the imperialist payroll since at least the 1920s. Wearing the mantle of his mentor, Mahatma Gandhi, Narayan is the only opposition figure with long-established national status; without him, the rag-tag amalgam of local right-wing, fascist, and Maoist grouplets could never mount coherent national opposition to Gandhi's development policies.

As early as March, 1967, Narayan told the Indian Express that he was "toying with the idea of a military dictatorship in India" to "set right the instability" of the country. Meanwhile Narayan has devoted himself to creating as much instability as possible.

In January, 1974, Narayan exacerbated the disruptions in the super-exploited state of Gujarat provoked by the Jan Sangh. He also led confrontations in the state of Bihar, his other major base of support, in an attempt to topple the Congress Party there. This month Narayan made a public alliance with the Naxalite Maoist gangs who led a series of riots in Bihar and succeeded in provoking a landlord retaliation which left whole villages in ashes. Even before this open coalition with the Maoists was consummated, Narayan's anti-Sovietism provided the basis for a good marriage. Last March Narayan said, "We did not fight and expel all imperialists from China to make room for the yoke of another European imperialism — Russia. If anybody has the right to rule the world it should be the Chinese — not them."

Narayan's history of counterinsurgency stretches back for years. In the 1920s he went to the U.S. and joined the Communist Party there, returning to India with an "international Marxist" gloss to join British colonial agent Mahatma Gandhi's independence movement. As the Indian Communist Party has documented, Narayan's "radical Marxist" years were bankrolled by the far from pro-Marxist Birla family, India's leading capitalists and close Rockefeller allies. Decked out in

Gandhian robes, Narayan stayed in the left wing of the Congress Party until 1943, when he left to form the Praja Socialist Party. The PSP's major achievement was to whip up regionalist rage during the 1943 partition of India, which led to communal riots and the butchery of more than 250,000 Muslims and Hindus. Narayan formally broke with the PSP in 1953 but all along has been pursuing the back country road to Indian socialism under Ford Foundation auspices, with supplementary income from the Birla family and its newspaper the Indian Express.

Narayan's program is merely a translation of the Nazi ethos of "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Makes Free) into the slogan of "Indian self-sufficiency." In 1969, in his publication Voluntary Action, he issued a ten-point program for India which included: "Let us practice austerity"; "Stop craving for external aid and bring out the spirit of self-reliance"; "Let there be a truce in industrial relations for the next five years"; "Let us place emphasis on labor-intensive methods of production and distribution to solve the unemployment problem." Narayan has also publicly called for the dismantling of India's cities and the dispersal of the population into tiny, "self-sufficient" rural communities. Word for word, Narayan mouths the most hideous parts of Rockefeller's program of triage; Narayan's plans, if implemented, would create an economy which could not support more than 20 per cent of India's present population.

As he pulls together this "People's Front," Narayan has made his fascism more and more explicit. Last March he was accused by the Indian Communist Party of being a fascist. He turned to the Jan Sangh and said, "If you are fascist, then I am fascist." To clarify the point, he explained: "Fascism was a reaction to the senseless violence and chaotic actions and activities of the Communists in Italy. The socialist Mussolini, disgusted with what the 'radicals' were doing and how they were destroying the fabric of Italian society, organized resistance to the Communists by binding and uniting the people for self-protection, for the protection of national interests."

To stop Narayan's fascist front, Gandhi rounded up his allies from all sides of the political spectrum. Among those arrested over the past two days were:

* K. R. Malkani, editor of the Jan Sangh's

newspaper Mother Land, and other leaders of the ultra-rightist group. The Jan Sangh, self-proclaimed admirers of Hitler, is a fanatic Hindu revivalist cult which is complementing Narayan's push for military rule with attempts to provoke Northern Ireland style religious wars between India's Hindu and Muslim communities — the inflaming of "communal passions" referred to by Indira Gandhi in her announcement of the state of emergency decree.

* Jyoti Basu and other leaders of the Communist Party-Marxist, the Maoist counter-gang to the pro-Soviet Indian Communist Party. Narayan ally Basu has close links to Rumania's polycentrist dictator Ceausescu.

* Morarji Desai, former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister during the 1960s. Desai, notoriously a spokesman for India's most reactionary landlord and textile interests, spent his time as Finance Minister preventing Soviet and East bloc trade with India because "they accumulate Indian rupees to finance their agents and propaganda in our country" — while he held the doors wide open to the Ford and Rockefeller Foundation invasion. Despite his attempt at a Mahatma Gandhian image — he sports garments he claims he wove himself — Desai is widely hated by both workers and peasants. Over the past weeks he has blocked with the Narayan opposition.

* Chandra Shekar and Mohan Dharia, right-wing members of Gandhi's Congress Party. One left Congress spokesman described these "socialists" as "right-wingers all the way. They support de-industrialization, rural peasant miracles."

* Raj Narain, a close collaborator of Narayan's from the misnamed Socialist Party. He brought the corruption charge against Indira Gandhi which began the whole CIA destabilization.

* Leaders and members of the Naxalite Maoist band and other ultraleft and ultraright flotsam.

With her bold move, Gandhi has temporarily destabilized the destabilizers, but only temporarily. To really mop them up, she must move even more boldly in the direction shown by the Indian Communist Party: toward the immediate implementation of an economic reconstruction program that can free India from Rockefeller's vise and pull the peasantry out from under the fascist Narayan crew.