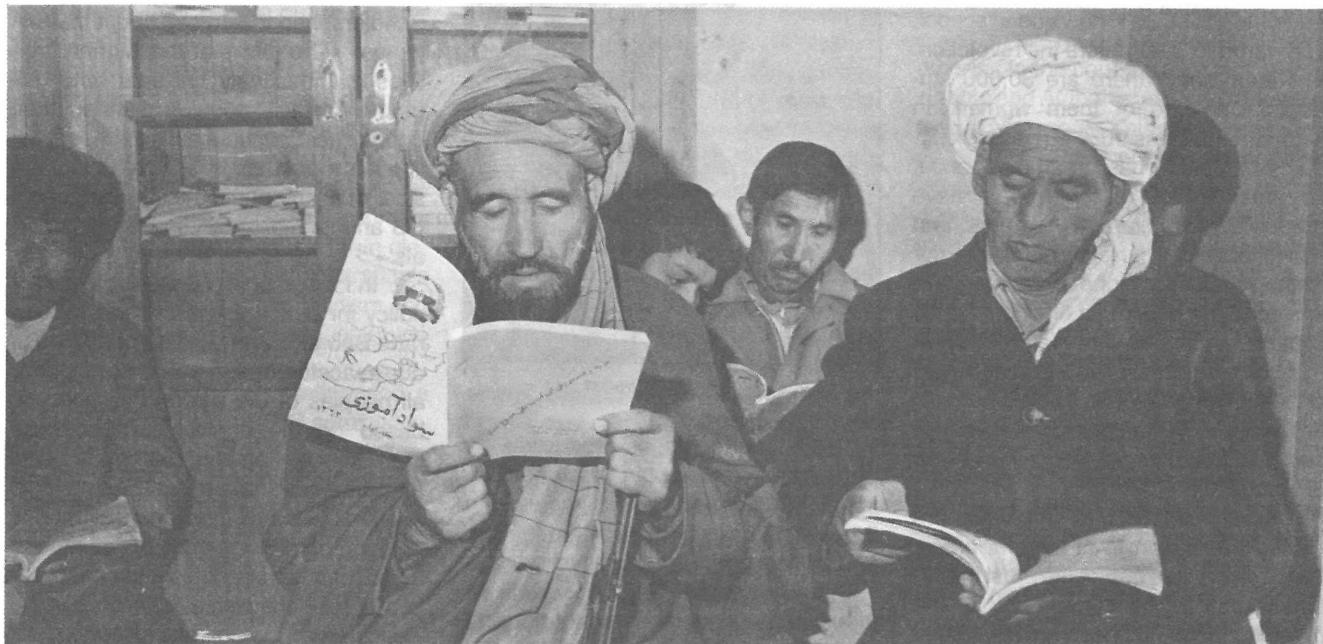


Afghanistan

8 Years After the April Revolution

On April 27th, progressive forces around the world celebrate the anniversary of the Afghani revolution of 1978. That date marks the success of the Afghani people's struggle, led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), in toppling the reactionary feudalist regime of Mohammad Daud.



Literacy campaign

The young Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) faced a wide range of internal and external enemies. Internally, the revolution was faced with the objective condition of underdevelopment, which increased the power of reactionary forces. Added to this were the gravely wrong policies of Amin, the second premier. This latter problem was corrected on December 27, 1979, when Amin was removed and Comrade Babrak Karmal was appointed Secretary General of the PDPA, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the new government.

From the start, the DRA faced external aggression sponsored by forces ranging from US imperialism, Britain and West Germany, to China, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Zionist state. US imperialism is the main financer and organizer of gangs of Afghani counterrevolutionaries that try to sabotage the development programs and stability of the DRA. These gangs

engage in attacking women, children and elderly. They burn schools and hospitals. Using the banner of Islam, they try to cover up their US sponsorship. The US Congress allocated \$ 470 million for 1986 alone for these mercenaries. There are also reports that \$ 300 million was approved by Congress as a supplement for the next two years. Since the start of this undeclared war against the DRA, the total amount of covert US assistance to these gangs has been \$ 1.5 billion.

In cooperation with the US, the military dictatorship in Pakistan provides bases for the gangs to launch their aggression, despite strong opposition among the masses in Pakistan, especially among the Baluch and Pashtun tribes on the borders, that have pledged support for the DRA. The US instructed its puppets in the Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, to give assistance to the gangs. NATO is also involved. West Germany, for example, established a radio station

called «Free Afghanistan» to spread disinformation manufactured by the CIA. Iran attempted to start a sectarian war by mobilizing the Shiite sect in Afghanistan. China has also provided support to the gangs.

This range of external aggression directed against the DRA is reminiscent of the imperialist aggression directed against the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in its early years. The DRA lacked the resources to face such a massive attack alone. Thus, the revolutionary government requested assistance from the Soviet Union, based on the 1919 friendship treaty between the two countries. In accordance with the principle of proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union agreed to the DRA's request and sent a limited number of troops to defend the young revolution.

Steady progress

Despite the concerted counter-revolutionary attempts, the Afghani