

ing. Lacking any genuinely democratic structures for redressing their grievances, they braved the permanent ban on demonstrations and took to the streets. The regimes have proved their incapacity to lesson the economic crisis, whose burdens fall on the shoulders of the majority of the people, for this crisis is rooted in the economic, class and political nature of the regimes themselves.

Fire under the sand

Although both regimes managed to crush the upheaval of the hungry, the contradictions are not resolved. Contrary to the claims of Bourguiba and King Hassan, class contradictions are growing. The symptoms which appeared in the last few months are those of a deep cleft between the poor majority and the rich elite in both countries, aggravated constantly by subordination to the world capitalist market. Both are mainly agricultural countries, and the majority of the working force is peasantry in structure. Subordination to the imperialist

system makes both open markets for capitalist goods at the expense of local production, whether industrial or agricultural.

Internal class contradictions have been greatly augmented in recent years. This is tied to the influx of petro-dollars to the Arab world, starting in 1974, and the concurrent flourishing of the Arab comprador. Accordingly, the service sector has been inflated to the further detriment of agriculture and industry. As a result, massive migration from the countryside to the cities has occurred, with the migrants being channeled into work serving the comprador and service sector. This has led to further destruction of the process of accumulation of national capital, because an essential part of the returns go to the capitalist countries rather than being invested, or even accumulating, in the country itself.

The World Bank has pushed in the same direction by insisting on financing certain short-term and service projects, rather than long-term productive projects which could provide employment

and accumulate national capital. Additional pressure from the International Monetary Fund's demands has led the regimes, to take measures, such as the price rises, which further depress the poor's living conditions.

The need for leadership

The basis reasons for which the hungry again rose up are still embedded in both societies, portending more revolts in the future. However, if the main lesson of the recent upheaval is not drawn, the results of any future uprising might be as catastrophic for the masses' struggle. The main lesson is that the progressive forces must organize themselves to lead the upheavals of the poor to their logical end. This requires the immediate establishment of a national democratic front, based on a program of social, economic and political dimensions. A front, armed with such a program, can lead the masses' struggle to victory, for the conditions are ripe in both countries for such a national democratic struggle. ●

Colloquium in Aden

The National Democratic Revolution

In mid-February, a three-day colloquium was held in Aden on the subject: The National Democratic Revolution — The Democratic Yemeni Experience. The colloquium was sponsored by the Yemeni Socialist Party, and attended by delegates from communist parties, newly independent countries, socialist countries and national liberation movements. In the following pages, we print parts of the presentation made by Comrade Ali Nasser Mohammad, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Assembly and Prime Minister of PDRY; This is followed by selections from the paper delivered by the Communist Party of Greece. In the next issue of "Democratic Palestine", we will print the paper delivered to the colloquium by the PFLP, as well as other coverage of the seminar.

Democratic Yemen

After welcoming the participants in the colloquium and stressing the importance of the gathering, Comrade Ali Nasser Mohammad presented a comprehensive evaluation of the entire course of the Yemeni revolution. Here we print a section which concentrates on the importance of the leadership of the national democratic revolution.

From the outset, the October 14th revolution had general subjective conditions that contributed to its triumph over colonialism and played a prominent role in its subsequent development. The revolution had its organized political vanguard of a revolutionary democratic composition, specific programme documents and advanced party traditions.

Moreover, the revolution depended upon a broad social

base that included the workers, the peasants, the petty bourgeoisie and the intellectuals in the countryside and the towns. All of these were the fundamental directing force of national liberation. What is especially significant is the fact that the broadening of the scope of the popular armed revolution and the increased rallying of the masses around it was closely linked to the growth of the leading role of the National Front Political Organisation which gave embodiment to the alliance of these social forces. The National Front Political Organisation played its leading role by relying upon the toiling popular masses during the national liberation stage. It used a number of methods and forms of political and military struggle simultaneously, building a People's Liberation Army in the rural areas and forming commando groups in the towns, alongside its prominent role in the leadership of the trade unions and the founding of students and womens organisations and work within the sports, national and cultural clubs.

We can state that the October 14th revolution from the very beginning was founded without the participation of the political forces representing compradour and quasi-