

feudalism and in isolation of the opportunist reformist political forces within the national movement. The distance kept by these reactionary forces from the revolution led to their complete exclusion from the national liberation movement and their fall in the swamp of concessions to the colonizer...This fact contributed to the crystallisation of the revolutionary democratic basis of the alliance of the toiling social classes with a genuine interest in national liberation and social progress. This was reflected in the revolution's political, class, ideological and organisational development. It was crowned with the accomplishment of the task of national independence on November 30th, 1967, which opened up before our people a path of broad horizons for marching towards subsequent revolutionary development. On this path, the process of the revolutionary democrats' move to the positions of the working class and the declaration of commitment to scientific socialism took place, following the liquidation of the petty bourgeoisie's rightist tendencies, which nearly posed a serious new threat to the revolution following independence. This represented a fundamental factor in deepening the content of national power, consolidating social and economic transformations in society, and founding a firm revolutionary alliance between the segments of national progressive action which was personified in a tangible manner by the unity of the revolutionary forces within the framework of the Unified National Front Political Organisation. This unity was further consolidated with the foiling of the opportunist left tendencies that appeared at the level of the Yemeni working class party, the Yemeni Socialist Party, which today continues the leadership of the revolutionary process in our country towards completing the tasks of the stage of the national democratic revolution with socialist horizons.

Class leadership

Within this context, reference must be made anew to the fact that the resolution of the issue of the class leadership of the revolution, and refusal to compromise or hesitate in confronting all of the conspiracies and challenges that aimed at containing the revolution and draining it of its national democratic content, opened up the way for the maintenance and deepening of national independence, and the development of national democratic power of a socialist orientation, as the only path that ensures for the liberated countries the possibility of modernising the economic structures, developing the productive forces and improving the living standards of the peoples. It is not possible to return to those historic conditions under which the weak capitalist production relations in these countries could develop in an independent manner and undertake the historic national role played by contemporary capitalism when it appeared in forming nations and developed national states.

The setback of several national liberation revolutions has proved that without pursuing a path of socialist-orientated development, the national liberation movement that accomplished the task of independence cannot continue with the building of a national democratic state that would undertake the defence of national independence and realize social and economic progress. This is so because colonialism not only acted to destroy the fundamental productive forces in the colonies, but also perpetuated in these countries backward and weak types of production relations - most of which are pre-capitalism ones. The according of opportunities for the development of these relations after national independence can lead to the creation of a parasitic class structure characterized by disfiguration and subservience to world imperialism politically, economically and intellectually, and damage to the independence, economy and national culture of these countries.

In our country this issue appeared in a sharp manner following national independence. It was in the forefront of vital issues for which struggle was waged after independence. There was firm and determined confrontation of the rightist tendencies of some representatives of social segments that participated in the national alliance upon which the October 14th revolution rested, when it began by virtue of the requirements of the principal contradiction between colonialism and its lackeys on the one hand, and the popular masses with their various national and social classes and segments hostile to colonialism on the other hand. All of these issues were the focus of the work of the Fourth Congress of the National Front Political Organisation held in March, 1968, i.e. just a few months after independence. The progressive stream in the National Front was able to express its perception of the tasks and horizons of the new stage. This was personified by the Congress coming out with progressive resolutions that aimed at the deepening of the revolutionary democratic content of the National Front Political Organisation, the consolidation of its leading role and the building of a power with democratic institutions and progressive laws expressing the interests of the broadest toiling masses through the realisation of democratic agrarian reform, the building of mass and professional organisations, the purging of the state organs by removal of anti-revolution elements, replacing the command of the old army with that of the Liberation Army, nationalisation of foreign companies and banks, and the pursuance of a liberation foreign policy.

However, the rightist trend, which had failed in influencing the resolutions of the Fourth Congress, undertook on March 20 - i.e. just after a fortnight - a reactionary coup aimed at freezing the resolutions of the Fourth Congress and halting the internal life of the National Front Political Organisation, by allying with the command of the old army. This resulted in the perpetuation of individualism and revanchist tribal trends.

Corrective move

Despite all that, it was possible to save the revolution from disfiguration and loss by virtue of the constant principled stands and relentless struggle of the militants of the progressive stream in the National Front, with the backing of the popular masses...The conflict with the rightist trend was decided with the June 22, 1969 Corrective Move which overthrew the reactionary right; this opened the path for continuing the march towards completion of the tasks of the national democratic revolution stage; it paved the way for the participation of the other national action segments in the power and the mass organisations, and regained for the National Front Political Organisation its progressive class struggle role.

The June 22nd Move constituted an important historic stride in the march of the Yemeni revolutionary movement's development on the basis of adherence to scientific socialism, the consolidation of the organisation's leading role and strengthening and developing the militant party values and traditions, based on the principles of collective leadership and democratic centralism. This provided the necessary conditions for the deepening of the content of national power and its employment as an implement of social change.

With the convening of the Fifth and Sixth Congresses of the National Front Political Organisation in 1972 and 1975, the October 14th revolution entered a new stage in the course of its progressive development. In these two congresses, adherence to the ideology of scientific socialism was clearly determined. The fundamentals of leading and directing the revolutionary process were formulated through the adoption of the programme of the stage of the national democratic revolution. The programme defined the tasks and aims of this