

The National Democratic Revolution

In our last issue we reported on the seminar held in Aden on the subject of the national democratic revolution and the experience of South Yemen. There were selections from the presentations made by Comrade Ali Nasser Mohammad, General Secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and by the Greek Communist Party. In this issue we print a translation of the paper presented by the PFLP at the seminar.

The nature, tasks, dynamic forces and perspectives of the national democratic revolution

The national democratic revolution is a bourgeois democratic revolution of a new type, induced by the contemporary stage of capitalism's development into imperialism, and the resulting oppression of the peoples of the three continents (Asia, Africa and Latin America) by world colonialism. Specifically, the emergence of the national democratic revolution coincided with the present stage of the general crisis of capitalism, which began when capitalism was defeated by the end of the second world war, and socialism became a world system encompassing many European and Asian countries. This meant the emergence of new international conditions favorable to the peoples' struggle for national independence and social progress in the colonized and subordinate countries.

The national democratic revolution may occur in a number of countries with differing levels of economic and social development. It may occur in severely backward countries where feudal and pre-feudal relations still prevail, where the working class is not yet crystallized as a class, and the bourgeoisie is still in the formative stage, as is the case in many African countries. It may occur in countries where capitalist relations of production have developed sufficiently for a working class to be constituted in one form or another, and the national bourgeoisie to be crystallized to the degree of being a class with economic and social influence. This is the case in many Arab countries, such as Egypt, Algeria and Iraq, and in other Asian countries.

The national democratic revolution arises on the basis of two kinds of contradictions: external and internal. The sharp, antagonistic contradiction with colonialism and imperialism constitutes the main contradiction. This gives these revolutions the character of national liberation, hostile to imperialism and to the different forms of colonial subordination and economic plunder imposed by imperialism on the oppressed people of the colonized and subordinate countries. The oppressed people aspire to political and economic emancipa-

tion and to establishing independent national states. Therefore, the upsurge of the national liberation movements in the three continents has contributed greatly to deepening the general crisis of contemporary capitalism and to the collapse of the colonial empires.

In as much as the peoples' struggle for liberation is against the political and economic hegemony of imperialism, to the same extent it attacks the essence of the capitalist relations of production... In this context, Lenin pointed out that the struggle for national liberation is a part of the revolutionary socialist transformation of the world: «The socialist revolution will not only be the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie in every country, but the struggle of the colonies and countries that are subordinated and oppressed by imperialism, against world imperialism». Thus, from the point of view of the world revolutionary process, liberating the oppressed people from imperialism corresponds not only to their national interests, but also to the class interests of the international proletariat and socialism. Moreover, the class struggle waged by the international proletariat, first and foremost the socialist countries, plays a major role in abolishing capitalism. Thus, it creates favorable conditions for national liberation revolutions, aiding them in achieving freedom and national independence. This provides the objective basis for the unity of the forces hostile to imperialism: the national liberation movements, the socialist countries and the working class in the capitalist countries. Strengthening the alliance between the world socialist system and workers' movement on the one hand, and the national liberation movements in the three continents on the other, assumes great significance for the coming struggle against imperialism.

The main thrust of the national democratic revolution is a liberation revolution against colonialism and imperialism, aiming to achieve national independence and build independent national states. Yet this can only be achieved on the basis of specific forms of internal contradictions. The feudal and semi-feudal relations that exist in the countries prone to national democratic liberation cannot continue indefinitely. On the contrary, the time is ripe for these relations to vanish and be