



*Ali Naser Mohammed, the revolutionary leader*

replaced with more developed relations of production. Thus, the national democratic revolution is required to resolve these internal contradictions.

Hence, the tasks of the national democratic revolution include the following: enacting agrarian reform to the benefit of the working peasants; fostering the growth of industrial and agricultural production; expanding the internal market; cancelling the exploitative social and economic relations and forms of class oppression enforced by colonial rule and by the class hegemony of feudalist and reactionary forces in these societies. Furthermore, taking measures to spread democracy gives these revolutions their democratic character.

The dynamic class forces, leadership, tasks and perspectives for development of the national democratic revolution vary due to differences in the level of social and economic development, national characteristics and the political conditions of the struggle in the countries concerned, and due to differences in the regional and international alliances.

The class forces with interests in the national democratic revolution are the working class, the peasants, the petit bourgeoisie and the middle strata of the population. Also the national bourgeoisie may play a role in this revolution. However, it is not long before the role of this class decreases and vanishes, due to its fear of the upsurge of the mass movement and its own dual nature.

The major characteristic of the contemporary world is the transition from capitalism to socialism. The balance of class forces on the international level is continuously tilting in favor of the forces of liberation, socialism and peace. Thus, national democratic revolutions were victorious in many countries of the three continents; the great majority won national independence and established independent states.

At the same time, some peoples with differing degrees of social and economic development not only achieved national democratic liberation, but moved into the stage of socialist transformation. Lenin declared that while fighting to eradicate colonial oppression and achieve national independence, the oppressed people are simultaneously struggling against the basis of capitalist exploitation. This has been substantiated: Some peoples, having abolished colonial rule, the positions of imperialism and the remnants of feudalism, were able to embark on the transition to socialism while undertaking the tasks of the national democratic revolution.

The revolutions that have occurred in the three continents, from the end of the second world war until today, are national democratic in nature. Accordingly, the major tasks of these revolutions were antagonistic to imperialism and the pre-capitalist relations of production.

Other revolutions have failed to accomplish all the national democratic tasks, were unable to accomplish them fully, or to create the material and spiritual conditions conducive to socialist transformation. This can be traced to the nature of the social classes and political parties that led these revolutions.

There was a time when the national bourgeoisie (comprising all its strata, petit and middle, its political parties and leadership) had the opportunity to lead such revolutions, as happened in a number of Arab countries. Yet this bourgeoisie was unable to lead the national democratic revolution to its logical end, due to its class limitations, vacillation and fear of the mass movement. Rather the bourgeoisie stopped halfway and eventually repudiated the national democratic course.

On the other hand, national democratic revolution occurred in countries such as Cuba, China, Korea, Vietnam and other countries in the Southeast Asia. In some of these countries, the level of social and economic development was lower than that in Arab countries such as Egypt, Iraq and Syria. Yet the working class, via its vanguard political parties, was prepared to play a leading role. It established a revolutionary alliance with the peasant masses, and with the urban and rural petit bourgeoisie. This enabled these national democratic revolutions against colonialism and feudalism to accomplish not only the tasks of the national revolution, but to embark directly on the transition to socialist revolution as well.

From 1905, Lenin, the leader of the great October Revolution, was always vigilant about clarifying to Russian revolutionaries, and to all revolutionaries of the world, the significance of struggling to secure working class leadership in the bourgeois revolution. In his book, *Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution*, he emphasized: «Marxism teaches the proletariat not to keep aloof from the bourgeois revolution, not to be indifferent to it, not to allow the leadership of the revolution to be assumed by the bourgeoisie, but, on the contrary, to take a most energetic part in it, to fight most resolutely for consistent proletarian democracy, for the revolution to be carried to its conclusion. We cannot get out of ►