

15  
PAPER ON "THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION"

SUBMITTED BY A COMRADE in Birmingham.

Since Krushchey's denunciation of Stalin and since his own demise, the world communist movement has been divided. We are led to believe that the USA and the Soviet Union are in opposite camps. In fact, both superpowers are in the same camp, the camp of imperialism; it suits the USA to pretend that the Soviet Union is communist. The degree of confusion generated by the Soviet Union has split the communist movement from top to bottom. It is not sufficient, however, to lay the blame at the door of the Russians. So many communist parties have shown their willingness to accept the Soviet's cooked-up version that we must conclude that revisionism is itself an international phenomenon. That the Soviet Union is today a capitalist and imperialist nation is an objective fact. It exists independent of the critical stand taken by the Chinese communist party and others. A full explanation of the internal causes by which the world's first socialist country came to this state of affairs here, would take too long. The reader is advised to study Martin Nicolaus' book "Restoration of Capitalism in the USSR", published by Liberator Press, Chicago, USA.

The degeneration of the USSR, in itself a bad thing, has led to renewed interest in Marxism-Leninism and it is the task of our time to appraise the situation from the point of view of Marxists-Leninists.

As the result of two world wars and two revolutions, the Russian and the Chinese, the capitalist world is weaker and has shrunk. In both wars the capitalist predators opened hostilities without the slightest understanding of the consequences. They are mercenary, predatory, greedy and they gamble in lives. Are they then open to reason? Yes - but the reason of superior force. Consequently, those that play about with the parliamentary road are fooled into believing that they control events. On the contrary, events dictate to them. The ruling class has no such illusions.

The world is today divided into a series of nation states. A few are socialist. Albania, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Laos, People's Republic of China, Roumania and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, where relations of exploitation have been abolished.

For the most part we find social systems of semi-feudalism and capitalism. Feudalism is based on exploitation of the peasant by the landlord, the latter is based on the exploitation of labour by capital. Both these systems are sustained by imperialism. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism. If there are those who entertain the idea that the Soviet Union has entered on a new extended stage of development of capitalism, we should note that the Soviets have passed from socialism to social-imperialism. The Soviet Union is a fascist state with all the contradictions that attend its own downfall. Can this be said to be an extension of capitalism? Hitler's regime lasted twelve years.

Imperialism leads to a search for new markets, raw materials and cheap labour and that leads to tactics of armed intervention, territorial division, annexation, unequal treaties, the indebtedness of governments and ransoming of entire populations. Superprofits amassed by economic plunder create a labour aristocracy at home and puppet regimes abroad producing economic, social and political crises, at the same time increasing world contradictions which can only be solved by revolution.

Consider the analysis by the People's Republic of China, the world's leading socialist country. There are four fundamental contradictions that characterise the present era.

- 1) The contradiction between the oppressed nations on the one hand and imperialism and social-imperialism on the other,
- 2) Between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie in the capitalist and revisionist countries.
- 3) Between the imperialist and social-imperialist countries and among the imperialist countries themselves.
- 4) Between the socialist countries on the one hand and imperialism and social-imperialism on the other.

The sharpest contradiction is between that which oppresses the oppressed nations on the one hand and imperialism and social-imperialism on the other. This has led to the division of the globe into three worlds.

The First World is composed of USA and USSR. these superpowers contend for global hegemony and are threatening a new war.

The Second World is composed of the states of Western and Eastern Europe, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and Canada, which are, on the one hand, junior partners of USA and USSR, but on the other hand, increasingly the object of their expansionist designs.

The Third World consists of the states of Africa, Asia and Latin America. They are the major victims of imperialist domination, but also its Achilles Heel, and therefore the principle force in the world revolution.

China's strategy is to unite the forces within the Second and Third Worlds in a global united front against the superpowers. In its relations with modern states the Chinese CP has remained faithful to Lenin's teachings re. mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual non-aggression and peaceful co-existence.

The application of these five principles undermines the foundations of imperialism, exposes its true character, accelerates its downfall, and opens up the prospect of human liberation. The strategy of the USSR is a carbon copy of USA, the subordination of the Third World, sabotage of revolutionary movements, and the destruction of socialist countries.

#### DANGER OF A NEW WORLD WAR:

Today the superpowers are engaged in a feverish arms race the purpose and consequence of which can only be the outbreak of a new world war. Both countries are armed to the teeth each seeking to outdo the other.. From our point of view the USSR is the main danger in the world.

As the struggles of the 3rd world increase the pressure on the USA and the USSR rises and fear of domestic revolt deepens. As their need to expand economically increases, the exploitation of their junior partners intensify and their underlying antagonism will be revealed. Thus as the people of Eastern and Western Europe demand political sovereignty and economic independence as the precondition for peace and prosperity, their governments will be forced to dissociate themselves from superpower domination. The example of the 3rd World, which is truly revolutionary, acts as a catalyst and pushes forward the 2nd World. As an example take France's negotiation direct with OPEC thus breaking the American domination of the Western bloc.

Today an alliance between the 2nd and 3rd Worlds implies an alliance between newly independent states and their colonial masters. Thus to the extent that the 2nd World countries uphold the banner of national

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-3- International Situation

independence, dissociate themselves from the designs of the superpowers and support the cause of the 3rd World, they objectively become allies.

Is this a new question? No, for the revolutionaries and peoples of former colonies fought alongside their imperialist masters in World War II. Was this an error of judgment? Not at all. At that moment the principal contradiction was between the people of the world and Nazi Germany or Japanese fascism. It was precisely this battle that accelerated the anti-colonial struggles in Africa, the independence movement in South Asia and led to the liberation of Korea, Vietnam, Roumania, Albania and China.

Moreover we must re-assess our ideas of progress and of reaction. Can one call a government 'progressive' if it sells its peoples' destiny for a few pieces of silver? Are all the motor cars, TV sets, washing machines and the perks of a permissive society an adequate exchange for the domination of Britain by US capital? Our own attitude as communists needs continual criticism surrounded as we are by the blandishments of latter day capital.

In the case of China the criteria for inclusion in a united front is not exclusively a states' internal policy but essentially its external policy in regard of the objective results of its own action. Does it weaken or strengthen the position of either superpower?

On the question of internal policy consider the European states in the EEC. Each state pursues its own policy on a capitalist basis i.e. at the expense of its neighbours. This is its fundamental weakness - competition instead of cooperation. But at the same time it acts as a bulwark (if only a weak one) against superpower designs. In order to transform the EEC into an instrument capable of truly defending national interest it will be necessary to go over the heads of state to implement the elements of socialism which will be readily understood and finally to arm the people. Only this program can guarantee a united Europe against external enemies.

In this combination Britain is the weakest and the most vulnerable. When the EEC referendum was held the people voted with a resounding majority. Was this correct? Consider the anti-marketiers, Powell, the NF, Benn, sections of the Labour and Tory parties plus the CPGB with their false nationalism. And all urged and encouraged by the Soviet Union, for their own private aims.

Can it be said that in their recognition of Peoples' China, the Tories have reform? Not at all. They are concerned with their own survival as a class. Yet in forging links with China they are acting progressively. To this extent then we should support them, but not further. Many will argue from abstract principles, that we should oppose the Tories under all circumstances. This is nonsense. We must learn proletarian strategy i.e. the ability to combine with that group or class which will defend national interest and oppose the hegemony of the super powers. In the 2nd World War we supported Churchill in the struggle against fascism. Is the position so very different today when there is the real possibility that a united world front against the superpowers can halt, even reverse, the trend towards war.

In the struggle for socialism only the 3rd World is truly revolutionary. No one will pretend that a revolutionary situation exists in Britain. This does not mean that we follow at the tail of events. To do so means surrendering to the bourgeois outlook we must look ahead and anticipate situations which can and will arise overnight. The Soviet Union for internal reasons becomes more belligerent and threatening. The specter that is haunting the Kremlin, the specter of communism will return again to Europe, no longer as specter but as a revolutionary teaching that allied to the masses will burn the old world to ashes.

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