

Africa: to expel all traces of exploitation



THREE coups d'etat, the assassination of the President of Somalia, the prolonged war between Nigeria and Biafra, the student rebellion in six countries and the intensification of the revolutionary armed struggle in important zones are, in short, the most outstanding events in Africa in 1969.

Also noteworthy on the African scene is the encroachment into the old colonial empires by travelers from the United States, Japan, Israel, and Taiwan who are battling hastily over the continent to control the oil, uranium, copper, gold, diamonds, and rare metals its territories possess.

At the same time, the South African racist regime, surrounded by the Por-

tuguese colonies and a constellation of satellite countries, is trying by all means to project a new image to obtain an ambitious "collaboration" with other African states. At the same time South African industry, encouraged by huge US, West German, British, French, and Japanese investments, has impetuously undertaken the conquest of the continental markets.

That compulsive approach to other countries of black Africa includes the signing of alliances, military pacts, and trade agreements. The South African armed forces have the highest budget in all Africa and carry out joint operations with the colonialist Portuguese troops equipped by NATO and counting on military personnel and advisers in Angola and Mozambique, in an attempt to prevent the inevitable liberation of the African peoples.

Thus South Africa, which is also trying to penetrate Latin-American markets, has signed military cooperation pacts with some Latin-American governments with the aim of forming a South Atlantic "Holy Alliance." Using the argument of the increasing presence of Soviet ships in the area, they are really trying to strengthen their ties to combat the liberating wave of the African and Latin-American peoples.

THE ARMED STRUGGLE

But in Africa the patriots' armed struggle in Guinea-Bissao and Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia (Southwest Africa), Eritrea, Chad, Zimbabwe, and South Africa itself continues to develop in frontal clashes with the oppressors.



In the territories under Portuguese colonial domination, the patriots of PAIGC, MPLA, and FRELIMO control a large part of their lands after having liberated them from the Portuguese, who in many cases, as in Guinea-Bissao, are forced to live within the confinement of their barracks. Meanwhile, these organizations are trying to combine the need to carry the war forward to final victory with the creation of a rudimentary political, cultural, administrative, economic, and social infrastructure as a base for the future states now being born.

In Chad FROLINA operates in the northern region, covering almost a fourth of the country. To the present confrontation between the revolutionary and governmental forces has been added the open intervention of the Expeditionary Corps of the Foreign Legion and French paratroopers stationed in Chad, and the constant reinforcements sent from France this year.

The Liberation Front of Eritrea has tried to gain world attention for the forgotten struggle they are carrying out to obtain their independence from Ethiopia. The guerrilla actions and sabotage of public buildings in Addis Ababa are part of the struggle of the Eritrean people for their independence.

CONGO

From the month of January to the month of September of the present year, CNL guerrillas attacked and victoriously repelled the troops of the puppet Mobutu. Some 110 soldiers of the Mobutu regime lost their lives, among them a lieutenant colonel, a commander, and other officials and subofficials.



While the workers, manual and intellectual, increase their strikes in the zone under neocolonial domination, the population in the zones liberated by the CNL is organized and ready to defend its victories and increase the intensity of its guerrilla operations.

Through its directorate, the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the CNL has created various mass organizations such as the Union of Revolutionary Congolese Women (UFRC), the Association of Revolutionary Peasants and Workers of the Congo (RAPORC), the Union of Revolutionary Congolese Youth (UJRC), and the Congolese People's Sports Union (USPC).



STUDENT REBELLION

At the beginning of the year student rebellions broke out throughout Equatorial Africa and the Congo (Leopoldville), which in some cases, as in Senegal, brought about a constitutional reform. Ethiopia, Senegal, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Congo (L) are the countries where this student rebellion is strongest.

In Ethiopia the students rebelled against the anachronism of Haile

Selassie's feudal powers which keep the country in great backwardness. A chain of demonstrations beginning in March shook Addis Ababa in protest against administrative corruption and government waste and asked for the expulsion of professors belonging to the US Peace Corps. Numerous Ethiopian students abroad have immediately shown their solidarity with their comrades and attacked their country's embassies in Washington, Stockholm, Paris, and Moscow.



Since then student protests have been a norm in the life of Ethiopian education. Their grievances go far beyond the simple educational reforms and place the very feudal structure of the regime on trial.

In the other countries the student rebellions, which in a certain manner recall the "French May," always began with small academic demands and, as in Ethiopia, were soon converted into a denunciation of the existing system of government. In some cases, as in

the Congo (L), repression reached unsuspected levels. In just one encounter between police and students, the repressive forces killed 40 demonstrators.

The students stated that after winning independence their countries not only have not been freed from the colonial yoke but also that as each day passes they are more and more subjugated to and dependent on their old and recent masters through new mechanisms of domination used by neocolonialism.

True independence, they point out, is not the formal declaration obtained from the former colonial power. It is necessary to fight, they state, for an authentic economic, political, and military independence from the industrialized colonial powers, and to undertake paths of revolutionary development that can satisfy the aspirations of the African people in the future.

TWO IMPORTANT CHANGES

This year Sudan and Libya have firmly decided to follow these paths to their own development. Along with others on the African continent who are fighting to overcome the backwardness inherited from the colonial period, like Algeria, Guinea, Congo-Brazzaville, and Tanzania, they are the example of the options and possibilities for independence, together with the struggle that the patriots of the territories under colonial domination are waging.

On May 25 a group of young officers headed by Colonel Jaafar El Numeiry

overthrew the regime of Ismail el Azhari.

Under similar circumstances on September 1st, another group of young officers deposed the old monarchy of King Idris in Libya. Colonel Maamar el Kandafy headed the government, presiding over a revolutionary council chiefly made up of officers whose average age did not exceed 28.

Both events apparently form part of an awakening, that of a young officer class sensitive to the poverty, corruption, and imperialist penetration existing in their countries, and who also feel the pressure of an ever more acute crisis in the Middle East.

Sudan has declared its intentions to undertake a path of social development and unconditional support to all the liberation movements, very especially the Palestine resistance and Eritrea, which with their decided struggles are contributing to revolutionizing the Arab World.

Libya, with its enormous economic potential, which comes from its fabulous oil resources, has taken a decidedly anti-imperialist position in favor of the masses. The first measures are directed against the Western military apparatus in the area. By asking for the withdrawal of the Yankee and British bases from its territory, Libya is dealing a telling blow to the imperialist war potential in the Mediterranean Basin and in the Middle East.

At the military base at Wheelus Field, just as at those in Aden and Tobruk, US imperialism has been training not only NATO pilots and forces but also Israeli pilots who later will bomb and fight against the heroic

Palestinian commandos and the other Arab countries, with which Libya feels indissolubly tied.

The legitimate denunciation of the agreements on US bases presented at the beginning of November by the Libyan Government once again reinforces the Palestinian cause which Libya has come to support most ardently.

The revolutionary council that took power in Somalia, presided over by General Mohammed Siad, has already decreed its first measures and stated that, "we have taken power to combat the execrable corruption and nepotism, the illegal appropriation of public funds."

All these events together with actions of governments such as those of Algeria, Congo Brazzaville, Tanzania, and Guinea, which are fighting to better living conditions of their peoples and in defense of those who are fighting for their liberty, and with the heroic and unconditional struggle that the patriots are carrying out in territories still under colonial domination, such as South Africa and Rhodesia, bastions of reactionary currents in Africa, improve and strengthen the political future of the African continent.

A more positive period is opening up before us. The enthusiasm for the formal independence so widely handed down beginning in 1960, has passed; so has the stage of the imperialist counteroffensive which between 1965 and 1967 managed to install its puppets by more than 20 coups d'etat in revolutionary states. Actions and currents of marked progressive content begin to appear within the African context.