

## **PROVOCATORY CAMPAIGN OVER AFGHANISTAN**

**by K. MIKHAILOV**

The present stage in the development of international relations is marked by more vigorous action by the forces fighting for national liberation, to break the political, military, and socio-economic fetters imposed on them by the imperialist powers in a bid to preserve their rule. In the last few years alone the peoples of a number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have achieved a sharp swing in their development.

The course of events, conditioned by the objective laws of history and the people's vital interests, frustrates the imperialists' global designs. The collapse of the military-despotic regimes in Iran and Nicaragua was particularly painful for US ruling circles, which had made use of these regimes to ensure Washington's interests in the corresponding regions of the world. The loss of these two important bastions was a political shock for the top echelons of the US Administration. That is why it is now doing its utmost to damp down the liberation struggle and, resorting to demagoguery, is seeking to present any move to establish genuine people's power or strengthen the cooperation between the socialist and the newly-independent countries as an attempt to "upset the international equilibrium".

That is the mainspring of the large-scale subversive campaign launched by the USA, its allies and Peking against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It should be noted that the campaign was, in effect, launched right after the April 1978 revolution carried out by the advanced forces of Afghan society led by the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Using all the means at their disposal in the struggle against a people that had taken power into its own hands, external imperialist forces, in collusion with internal counter-revolutionaries, sought to divert Afghanistan from its chosen road. Dozens of thousands of Afghans were driven into Pakistan, proclaimed "refugees", and put in special camps for brainwashing. CIA agents and Chinese instructors trained them in guerrilla warfare, then armed and infiltrated them back into Afghanistan for raids against populated localities and military units. The bandits murdered PDP activists and other peaceful civilians, burned crops and destroyed cattle. "In effect, imperialism," noted Leonid Brezhnev in his answers to questions put by a Pravda correspondent, "together with its accomplices launched an undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan".

The gross interference by the imperialist forces in Afghanistan's internal affairs and the constant armed incursions by counter-revolutionary gangs from Pakistani territory put the young republic in grave danger. Under these conditions, in the course of 1978 and 1979, the Afghan leadership repeatedly appealed to the Soviet Union for support, including of a military nature, to counter the armed intervention by the forces of imperialism and international reaction. The Soviet Union believed that the imperialist circles would realise the futility of their efforts to undermine the revolutionary system and would cease their provocations against Afghanistan, but that did not happen. The enemies of the new Afghanistan resorted to even broader and more dangerous methods against the sovereign state.

The Afghan people's trials were exacerbated by the despotic rule of Hafizullah Amin, whose abuse of power and gross breaches of legality undermined the ideals of the April revolution.

Yet, led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan the country's patriot'ically-minded forces, which championed the ideals of the April revolution rose in struggle against not only the foreign aggression, but also against Amin and his followers, who had usurped power in the country. These forces removed Amin from the political scene, thus putting an end to his tyranny.

A plenary meeting of the PDP's Central Committee on December 27, 1979, elected Karmal Babrak, Nur Mohammad Taraki's associate, as General Secretary of the PDP's Central Committee and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council. Babrak was also appointed Prime Minister of the DRA.

Afghanistan's government once again addressed the Soviet Union with an urgent request for immediate support and assistance against the foreign imperialist aggression. That request on the part of Afghanistan's legitimate government was satisfied. In taking its decision to send a limited contingent of Soviet troops to Afghanistan to help it repel the armed intervention from outside, the Soviet Union maintained that Afghanistan's interests coincided with its own, and acted in strict accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighbourliness and Cooperation signed between the two countries in 1978. The DRA government's request and the Soviet Union's positive response are also in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which provides for the states' inherent right to collective or individual self-defence for repelling aggression and restoring peace. It should also be borne in mind that the Soviet troop contingent, as has been declared, will be fully withdrawn from Afghanistan once it is no longer needed.

Could the Soviet Union refuse to help a friendly neighbouring country at a critical point in its development? For all honest people who cherish the ideals of freedom and independence there can be only one answer to this question. No, the Soviet Union could not leave Afghanistan face to face with the imperialist forces that were furiously trying to stifle the Afghan revolution.

"To act in any other way would mean to leave Afghanistan to be torn to pieces by imperialism, to allow aggressive forces to repeat here what they were able to do, for example, in Chile, where the freedom of the people was drowned in blood", noted Leonid Brezhnev. "To act in any other way would mean to look on passively as a centre of serious threat to the security of the Soviet state arose on our southern frontier".

Facts and logic notwithstanding, however, the imperialist forces have used the events in Afghanistan to start a new round of vicious anti-Soviet propaganda, traditionally initiated by the US administration. Distorting the facts, the US and the Peking press and bourgeois mass media of the West, deliberately and unscrupulously misrepresenting the Soviet Union's role in Afghanistan, have been trumpeting about "Soviet aggression" in Afghanistan and even about its "occupation" by Soviet troops. They cynically and deliberately deny the Afghan people's right to determine the country's internal development and build its relations with neighbouring states. That was the keynote of President Carter's speech on US television on January 4, which cannot be seen otherwise than hostile to the interests of peace and detente.

Fully ignoring the DRA's will and progressive publj opinion, Washington and Peking initiated a debate on the "Afghan question" in the UN Security Council. The USA, China and some other countries tried to push through a resolution that would be at odds with the real state of affairs and would further only the selfish interests of the imperialist and hege-monistic forces. These plans were, however, frustrated.

The United States, China and their allies have also imposed on the UN General Assembly a discussion of the artificially created Afghan question. Representatives of the socialist and a number of non-aligned countries have justly assessed this as an attempt to draw the international organisation into actions geared to interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign Afghanistan and, at the same time, with the help of lies and slander, to conceal the military preparations of imperialism in the Middle East.

In his speech on US television, President Carter announced a number of measures in connection with Soviet-US links. He expressed the intention to apply "sanctions" against the Soviet Union and to cut back the economic, scientific, technological and cultural ties and exchanges between the two countries, which had already been curtailed as a result of US moves. The men in the White House have apparently forgotten that any attempt to put pressure on the Soviet Union is doomed to failure, and that no one has ever managed to attain his selfish goals by doing so.

The hostile and false propaganda campaign initiated by Washington against the Soviet Union's assistance to friendly Afghanistan has certain definite aims.

The actions of the US administration cannot be seen as anything but an attempt to capitalise on the events in Afghanistan in order to block international efforts to reduce the military danger, strengthen peace and curb the arms race. Imperialist circles are seeking to blacken the Soviet Union's policy with respect to the national liberation movement as a whole and the countries of the East in particular. US ruling circles also hope to divert world attention from its dangerous action with respect to Iran, to justify the vast concentration of US naval forces in the Persian Gulf area, and the Pentagon's efforts to set up new pro-Western military groupings and alliances in Asia, spearheaded against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Washington cannot conceal the fact that its interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs is not due to any concern over the future of the Afghan people. The USA's true motives were revealed, wittingly or unwittingly, by the US magazine *Counterspy*. It said it would have been more convenient for the USA to have a friendly [meaning pro-American.-?. ?.] government in Afghanistan. Moreover, Afghanistan would have been a splendid area for setting up a reconnaissance base spearheaded against the Soviet Union.

The hostile action against Afghanistan stage-managed by the imperialist forces and Peking will not do them any good. In a message of greetings to Karmal Babrak on his election to the leading posts in the People's Party and the DRA state leadership, Leonid Brezhnev expressed confidence that "under the present conditions, the Afghan people will be able to defend the gains of the April revolution, the sovereignty, independence and national dignity of the new Afghanistan".

Leonid Brezhnev's answers to a Pravda correspondent met with a tremendous response throughout the world. Commenting on them, the foreign mass media, eminent statesmen and public figures in a number of countries, note the enormous significance of the deep analysis they give of the most important and pressing international problems. Brezhnev's answers are considered by the world progressive public as a deserved reproof to the imperialist and reactionary forces trying to slow down, undermine the process of detente, and push the world back to the threshold of cold war.

The whole world can now compare the irresponsible, hysterical steps taken by the US administration, its risky disregard for values affecting all mankind, with the principled, wise and far-sighted statement by Leonid Brezhnev, writes the Czechoslovak *Rude Pravo*. Neues Deutschland (GDR) stresses that

Brezhnev's replies were met in the GDR, as throughout the world, with the greatest of interest. The Soviet leader resolutely unmasked the lie employed by the imperialist experts in manipulating public opinion to distort the reasons for the current increasingly difficult international situation, with the aim of hampering the struggle of peoples for peace, disarmament, independence, self-determination and social progress.

Imperialism will not, however, succeed with any of its subversive activities to make the Soviet Union change its firm course of guaranteeing peace and the security of nations. Leonid Brezhnev, write the central press organs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, once again confirmed the unchanging and consistent nature of the Soviet government's foreign political course geared to ensuring peace and security on Earth.

Karmal Babrak, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the DRA, said that Brezhnev's replies confirm once more that Afghanistan and its people have, in the great Soviet land, a faithful and reliable friend, on whose support they can always rely in the hour of difficulty. In this, he continued, the more than 15-million-strong nation sees a firm guarantee that it will not only protect the April revolution against any attacks, but will also multiply its gains. The Soviet Union intends to continue pursuing its resolute and consistent policy of peace, geared to reducing international tension, and countering the intrigues of imperialist circles. Leonid Brezhnev's replies confirm this yet again. They contain a decisive warning to the forces of reaction that still do not want to recognise the positive changes taking place in the world, stresses Mohammed Farhad General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

The world public has resolutely come out against the intrigues of imperialism and internal reaction in Afghanistan. The World Peace Council has called on all peace forces to unleash a struggle against the US course geared to undermining the policy of detente. The government of Afghanistan, the WPC statement runs, has, in exercising its sovereign rights, struck a blow at imperialist intervention and the subversive policy of the CIA. President Carter, as the mouthpiece of the US military industrial complex, has used this as a pretext for escalating the American military presence in various regions of the world, and with the aim of distracting the attention of the world public from the real threat to peace. The World Peace Council has called on all peace forces to unite and show the maximum resolve in the struggle to protect detente.

Solidarity with the revolution and people of Afghanistan in their struggle against the sallies of American imperialism is expressed in statements by representatives of a number of national liberation movements. A firm protest against the biased presentation of the situation in Afghanistan is contained in the Humanité statement signed by well-known people of the world of art and culture in France. The participants in a mass meeting in Beirut, in which representatives of the Lebanese national patriotic forces and the Palestine Resistance Movement took part, came out firmly in support of the international aid given by the Soviet Union to the Afghan people. The unilateral actions of the White House were sharply criticised in the United States itself, even. For example, the farmers' union of the state of Illinois came to the natural conclusion that the actions taken by the Washington administration would boomerang back against the American consumer.

The course of events conditioned by the objective laws of history and the peoples' fundamental interests foils the geopolitical plans of the imperialist forces and their allies. Given the existing balance of forces in the 13 world, certain Western circles have less and less hope of achieving military superiority or dictating their will to independent states. The alliance of the forces of socialism, peace and progress has resolutely blocked the way for those imperialist circles whose policy is to export counter-revolution. The events in Afghanistan are convincing proof of this.

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