

ROUND THE WORLD

CAMBODIA

New Constitution Promulgated

A new Cambodian constitution was officially promulgated on January 5 and put into effect as from that day.

A press communique on the enforcement of the constitution was read over the radio, the Voice of the National United Front of Cambodia, by Hu Nim, Minister of Information and Propaganda of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia on January 5.

The communique said: "In line with the resolutions taken by the Third National Congress held on December 14, 1975, and by the cabinet meeting on January 3, 1976, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia decided to promulgate and put into effect the new constitution of Cambodia as from January 5 onward."

"This constitution," it said, "is the outcome of the continuous work since the Special National Congress held on April 25, 26 and 27, 1975."

Its draft was submitted for widespread discussion by organizations of workers, peasants and other people and by units of the revolutionary armed forces, and for modification by the Constitution Council and the Royal Government of National Union. It was finally submitted to the Third National Congress for examination and ratification.

The new constitution stipulates: "Cambodia is an independent, unified, peaceful, neutral, non-aligned sovereign and democratic state with territorial integrity. Cambodia is a state of the Cambodian workers, peasants and other working people. Its formal name is Democratic Cambodia."

"The main means of production in general are owned by the whole people or by people's collectives," it declares.

"The right of legislation," it stipulates, "belongs to the congress of workers, peasants and other labouring people. The official name

of the congress is the Cambodian People's Congress."

The People's Congress, it states, elects the government and the presidium of the state. "The Presidium of the State comprises a president, a first vice-president and a second vice-president."

It also stipulates: "Democratic Cambodia will unswervingly pursue an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned policy; she is firmly opposed to the setting up of military bases on her territory by any foreign country and is firmly opposed to any foreign intervention in her internal affairs and to all subversion and aggression from outside." "Democratic Cambodia will never interfere in the internal affairs of any country." "Democratic Cambodia will resolutely remain in the non-aligned community. She will devote her efforts to strengthening solidarity with the third world peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and with the peace- and justice-loving people of the world, and will promote mutual support in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for national independence, peace, friendship, democracy, justice and genuine progress in the world."

"THE CALL" (UNITED STATES)

Soviet Union Denounced for Provoking Civil War in Angola

In an article in its December issue, the U.S. monthly *The Call* strongly denounced the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, for their intervention in Angolan affairs, particularly the Soviet social-imperialists' crime of provoking and expanding the civil war in Angola.

A long and complicated anti-colonialist struggle, the article said, led to the formation of three liberation organizations in Angola. Great progress was made in building unity among these groups. "But the Soviet Union seized on the differences that still existed among the groups, in order to weaken the overall liberation struggle, so that it could be

brought to the feet of the Soviet superpower." "To the Soviet social-imperialists," it said, "Angola represents a rich land of natural wealth; a strategic window on the southern Atlantic Ocean, and a firm base for expansion in southern Africa as a whole."

"But it is not easy to gain a foothold for foreign domination among the Angolan people who have been fighting foreign domination for 500 years. The Soviet Union has been forced to resort to the most sinister and devious tactics in order to accomplish this. Its main tactic, however, has been the ancient imperialist motto of 'divide and conquer.'"

Going against the aspirations of all Africa, the article noted, the Soviet Union threw its support exclusively behind one particular liberation organization. At a time when all three liberation organizations were trying to work out a ceasefire and form a coalition government, the Soviet imperialists flooded Angola with large doses of arms, munitions and "advisors" and urged one liberation organization to unilaterally declare independence and set up its own government.

"As the day of Angolan independence dawned," it added, "these superpower plots left Angola in a state of virtual civil war. Recognizing their duty to aid the Angolan people and keep foreign interests out, many African countries as well as the O.A.U. condemned Soviet interference and called for all foreign powers to cease arming and intervening in Angola." Terrified by this step leading to unity, the Soviet imperialists wantonly attacked those opposing them.

In conclusion, the article said that all the Soviet imperialists' moves reveal their thirst for hegemony in various parts of the world. But they are bound to fail.

INDIA

Pariahs Fight Exploitation and Oppression

Last year saw numerous struggles by India's pariahs against discrimination, exploitation and oppression.

On the lowest rung of the social ladder from generation to generation

under the Indian caste system handed down by history, the untouchables only can do what is called contemptible work and they suffer the cruellest exploitation and oppression. In some Indian states, they can be sold as slaves by the landlords at will and are deprived of any political rights. They are not allowed to use the public wells in their villages, enter any temples or pass on the streets in areas inhabited by the high-castes. There now are about 100 million pariahs in India, over 70 per cent living in the countryside and 95 per cent of them illiterate.

Last March over 100 pariahs in the Ujjain District, Madhya Pradesh, held a demonstration against outrages committed by local policemen who had beaten four members of a pariah family. In April, landlords in the Ghazipur District, Bihar State, beat two pariahs to death, set 200 houses on fire and raped women. Driven to the limit of endurance, the pariahs courageously rose in resistance. In the Patna District, Bihar State, landless untouchables rose in armed resistance against landlord persecution.

The pariahs have been compelled to escalate their struggle against atrocities. The Indian Deputy Minister of Home Affairs admitted that cases of persecuting them had increased in the past few years, with the situation particularly serious in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra and Gujarat States. In many other places their houses often were set on fire, grain and property seized, wells destroyed and women raped.

The pariahs often suffer harsh exploitation. In Bihar State 72 per cent of the households of the landless pariahs are in debt, and they usually have to pay the usurious rate of 100 per cent interest. The press trust of India reported that members of one pariah family in the Banda District had worked as slaves for a landlord for four generations in order to pay back 93 rupees borrowed by a great grandfather. However, instead of being paid off, the debt now had risen to 1,000 rupees.

The Soviet mouthpiece *Pravda* reported last August 26 that the life of the Indian untouchables had im-

proved greatly since independence and that Indian leaders had been fighting against the caste system. The miserable life of the pariahs mentioned above shows the futility of the Soviet paper prettifying India's reactionary ruling class.

VENEZUELA

President Perez on Oil Nationalization

The Venezuelan Government and people held a grand ceremony in the town of Cabimas on January 1 to mark the nationalization of the oil industry which put an end to more than half a century of oil control and plunder by foreign companies and which opened a new chapter in the country's oil industry history.

Addressing the ceremony, President Perez pointed out that nationalization of the oil industry demonstrated the emergence of a new decisive force—the third world; it also showed that Latin America and all developing countries are daily awakening in the course of defending their natural resources and economies that had been drained by exploitation.

The oil nationalization bill was proclaimed to be valid by President Perez on August 29, 1975. It stipulated that as from January 1, 1976, Venezuela would take over all foreign-owned oil industries and trade in oil. This was a harsh blow to the international monopoly capital and to hegemonism.

The oil industry and trade occupy a most important position in Venezuela's national economy. Oil income accounts for 85 per cent of the national revenue and 95 per cent of Venezuela's foreign earnings. But over long years the oil industry and trade were controlled by foreign monopoly capitalists. After many years of struggle, the Venezuelan people, step by step, regained control of their national economic rights and interests, set up their state-owned oil companies, controlled supply of oil and natural gas, and trained a large number of technical and managerial personnel. After the bill on oil nationalization was announced, further steps have been taken to nationalize all concessions of foreign companies

and their factories and equipment, thereby providing favourable conditions for the development of Venezuela's national economy.

JAPAN

Working Class Advances In Struggle

Last year saw the Japanese working class waging indomitable struggles against oppression, exploitation and hegemonism and to win political rights. In the course of these struggles, they enhanced their political consciousness, strengthened unity and grew stronger.

Early in May, two million workers from every walk of life carried out a mammoth strike against the monopoly capitalists shifting the burden of the economic crisis and for wage increases. Their struggle won wide sympathy and support, and a great number of labouring people and citizens voluntarily joined them.

The Japanese working class coupled its economic struggles with political ones. Beginning at the end of November, workers in railways, post and telecommunications and other state-owned enterprises staged an 8-day nationwide strike to restore their right to strike, which is rarely seen in the postwar annals of the Japanese working-class movement. The strike received positive support from workers in private enterprises and local trade unions. Quite a number of trade unions also struck in response.

The movement for the return of the northern territories constituted an important part of the Japanese working class' political struggle. Organizations for the return of these territories were set up in many trade unions. At meetings, many grass-roots trade unions made decisions urging the Soviet Union to return the four islands. A rally held in Tokyo on December 2 by people from every walk of life demanded return of the northern territories and condemned Soviet hegemonism. The rally gathered strength as strikers from railways, post and telecommunications and other state-owned enterprises joined in. In struggles, Japan's workers saw more clearly the nature of the Soviet social-imperialists.