

# The Brezhnev Gambit of Getting "Returns a Hundredfold"

IN a recently published collection of his speeches and reports, Brezhnev expunged a sentence from a speech he made at a plenary session of the central committee of the Soviet revisionist party in December 1973. In a reference to the work of the Soviet people, he said at the session: "We must spare no expenditure to carry out material encouragement, for such expenditure will bring returns a hundredfold." These words are preserved intact in the 1974 edition of the book *Problems of the C.P.S.U. Agricultural Policy and Reclamation of Virgin Lands in Kazakhstan*, but the sentence "such expenditure will bring returns a hundredfold" has disappeared in the recent volume of Brezhnev's speeches and reports entitled *On Basic Problems of the C.P.S.U. Economic Policy at the Present Stage*. This deletion is not without its significance.

Getting "returns a hundredfold" is typical capitalist jargon; it betrays the class nature of the bureaucrat-monopoly bourgeoisie represented by Brezhnev. In *Capital*, Marx vividly described the greedy nature of the capitalists by quoting the following: "With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent certain will produce eagerness; 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged."

Since a 300 per cent profit makes the capitalists run the risk of being hanged, then the Soviet revisionists naturally will "spare no expenditure" for getting "returns a hundredfold."

Brezhnev has banked on covering his traces by a stealthy deletion of a phrase, but his clumsy sleight-of-hand only gives the show away. The more he tries to hide, the more his ugliness is revealed.

Since getting "returns a hundredfold" is a reflection of the class nature of Brezhnev and company, similar phrases come natural to him, and it is difficult for him to retract every such utterance. In the above-mentioned speech, Brezhnev said: We can only "allocate each ruble to the place where we can be compensated by two, three and even ten rubles tomorrow. . . . All of us, from the central to local organizations, must learn the complex art of money-making. That is nothing to be ashamed of." These remarks which have the same meaning as the phrase "returns a hundredfold" have not been deleted from the book.

But even if Brezhnev is able to retract all the words he has uttered, no trick whatsoever can erase

the Soviet revisionists' ugly performance in seeking "returns a hundredfold."

## Exacting Maximum Surplus Value at Home

"Economic reform," "scientific organization of labour," "the Shchekino experience" and "the Zlobin method" and whatnot which the Kremlin revisionists have put into practice in the Soviet Union are an embodiment of that "art of money-making" expressed in the phrase "returns a hundredfold."

The Aksaisk Plastics Plant is chosen by the Soviet revisionist authorities as an outstanding collective for "learning the complex art of money-making." The Soviet journal *Communist* states that this plant is "outstanding" because "every ruble paid to the workers by the plant as material reward yields 16 rubles and 60 kopecks." In fact, even that ruble is not awarded gratis by the Brezhnev clique. For the Soviet treasury will be reimbursed by such measures as higher resident tax and increased commodity prices. The Soviet revisionists have announced that in 1960 alone they collected 5,600 million rubles in resident tax. This tax is expected to reach 19,600 million rubles in 1976; an increase of 3.5 times. Based on obviously doctored figures, the *Yearbook of Soviet National Economic Statistics* states that from 1960 to 1974, retail prices of meat and poultry in state-run shops rose 29 per cent and that of potatoes 14 per cent. The Soviet journal *Communist* has also admitted that in some Soviet enterprises cheap commodities are sold at higher prices in one way or another. How skilfully the new Soviet bourgeois elements in the central and local organizations have mastered Brezhnev's "complex art of money-making"!

To call a spade a spade, the "art of money-making" and getting "returns a hundredfold" are nothing but a trick to produce the maximum surplus value by means of minimum capital outlay, as described by Marx in his article on surplus value.

## Practising "Art of Money-Making" Abroad

Brezhnev and his ilk also put into practice the "complex art of money-making" abroad. The Soviet revisionists' much-vaunted "disinterested assistance" is a living example of this.

Referring to the German imperialists' export of capital in his work *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Lenin pointed out: Finance capital is concerned "with skinning the ox twice — first, it pockets the profits from the loan; then it pockets other profits from the same loan which the borrower uses to make purchases from Krupp, or to purchase railway material from the Steel Syndicate, etc."

(Continued on p. 28.)

(Continued from p. 25.)

The Brezhnev clique has gone a step further. It fleeces the recipient countries many more times, forcing them to pay back the loans through the sale of their own products at low prices and through other ways. The Indian paper *Economic Times* estimates that because of Soviet revisionist exploitation in many ways, by the time India has cleared all its debts the Soviet Union will get 565.7 per cent of its loans back from India. In other words, for every ruble given to India by the Soviet Union, it will take back more than five and a half rubles.

The Brezhnev clique used many high-sounding words such as "internationalism" and "disinterested assistance" when it offered "aid" to Egypt. But it was not long before Brezhnev began to collect "returns a hundredfold" from that country. He demanded high rates of interest, low prices for raw materials, military bases, domination of the country's armed forces and even sacrifice of its sovereignty. When the Egyptian

people resisted, the Brezhnev clique pressed for immediate payment of the debts. This is a good illustration of the meaning of "disinterested assistance" by the Brezhnev clique.

The Soviet journal *World Economics and International Relations* states that loans to other countries "not only provide possibilities but also the right to benefit from them." It adds that "any loss incurred in the national economy by granting such loans can be made good or even more than made good by savings on imports" from the debtor nations. "More than made good" means getting back more money. This magazine has to a certain extent exposed what lies behind the so-called "disinterested assistance"; it is part of the "art of money-making."

To get back several and even a hundred rubles for every ruble they lend is the creed on which the Soviet social-imperialists and Soviet bureaucrat-monopoly bourgeoisie place great importance. They will not give up this creed at home and abroad.