

New Tsars' Offensive Bears Seeds Of Defeat

WORLD history has witnessed all big powers being weakened, pushed downhill and driven to ultimate ruin without exception by their aggression and expansionist ventures. Continuous acts of expansion and conquest invite their own extinction — that is the logic of those seeking world hegemony.

The Soviet social-imperialist colossus is speeding along the same path today.

The Brezhnev clique has haughtily declared that the Soviet Union is on "a historic offensive" along "the whole front of global confrontation." Backed by military might, it is determined to "launch an extensive and actual general attack" and is prepared to go into a war using any type of weaponry. The clique has asserted that there is no corner of the earth it has not taken into account.

As their ambitions get wilder and wilder, the Soviet social-imperialists are reaching out farther and farther and committing more and more evil.

Soviet Aggression and Expansion Around the World

They have invaded Czechoslovakia by armed force and cracked down on the revolts of Polish workers. Through their "integration" programme, they have intensified in an all-round way their control, oppression, exploitation and plunder of the East European countries.

Behind the smokescreen of "detente," they are deploying their armed forces at an accelerated pace for both a frontal attack and flank movements against Western Europe. They have resorted to political subversion and sabotage, making economic inroads in a big way and diplomatic manoeuvres aimed at sowing dissension and estranging West European countries from one another. They are trying to gobble up Western Europe, a "juicy piece of meat."

They have doggedly refused to return to Japan the four northern islands they have occupied. Their aircraft often have intruded into Japan's airspace and their warships gone into Japan's territorial waters, posing a grave menace to Japan's security and imperilling Japanese fishermen's livelihood. Moreover, they have interfered in Japan's internal affairs through crude political and diplomatic pressure.

They have made armed provocations against China and stationed troops in Mongolia. They have engineered a war in South Asia and dismembered Pakistan. They are doing their utmost to edge into Southeast Asia and have fomented conflicts in West Asia to fish in troubled waters.

Under the pretext of supporting the Arab states' struggle against Israeli aggression, they try to establish and expand their sphere of influence in the strategically important Middle East. For their selfish ends, they set one country against another today, and do the reverse the next day, thus undermining the solidarity of the Arab states. At the time of its crisis, they tried to force Egypt into submission.

They have poked their nose into every corner of the African continent. They have unscrupulously interfered in the affairs of African countries and issued orders to them. They have engaged in acts of subversion, blackmail or loot there. They have carried out overt armed intervention in Angola and penetrated into southern Africa.

While consolidating their control and making use of the base already won in Latin America, they have kept seeking new footholds there. They try to bolster their influence there by using both the carrot and big stick — their warships and planes frequently appear off the continent of South America and they step up arms deals, "assistance" or trade.

They cast a covetous eye on Oceania and have attacked the countries there unceasingly for taking measures to ensure their own security.

With their fleets in every ocean, they have been pursuing a most blatant gunboat policy.

Soviet-U.S. Global Rivalry

They compete with the U.S. imperialists in arms expansion and war preparations, thereby increasing the burden on the people. Their global rivalry with the U.S. imperialists has thrown the world into turmoil.

It is governed by their imperialist nature that the new tsars have thrust themselves into every continent and ocean in fierce contention for world domination with the U.S. imperialists. Lenin pointed out that "world domination" is, to put it briefly, the substance of imperialist policy" (*A Caricature of Marxism and Imperialist Economism*) and that "an essential feature of imperialism is the rivalry between several Great Powers in the striving for hegemony." (*Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*.) Obsessed by the desire to seek, establish, maintain or strengthen their hegemony, all the imperialists are bound to set out on

aggression and expansion abroad and head towards a war of aggression. And such an "offensive" of aggression and expansion decidedly bears the seeds of defeat. This is because, in the course of their aggression and expansionist and hegemonist venture, they are bound to create their own opposition and produce their own gravediggers. They leave the nations subjected to their aggression, enslavement and exploitation no alternative other than to stand up and fight back. The more extensive their aggression and expansion, the more numerous will be the nooses around their necks. To engage in aggression and expansion abroad, they will inevitably step up the repression and exploitation of their own people, thereby aggravating the political and economic crises which in turn will force the people to rise in rebellion.

What is more, the rivals always confront each other and are always locked in irreconcilable and ever-sharpening conflicts. All these essential contradictions cannot be solved by hegemony-seekers.

Chairman Mao Tsetung pointed out: "In given conditions, each of the two opposing aspects of a contradiction invariably transforms itself into its opposite as a result of the struggle between them." (*On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People*) Both history and reality show that the struggles by the oppressed nations and oppressed people against hegemony and aggression always grow from weak to strong and, despite temporary difficulties and frustrations, win final victory, while imperialist hegemonism invariably degenerates from strong to weak and, though rampant for a while, declines and finally goes to its doom.

The Spanish empire collapsed amidst the storms of national-liberation movements in its colonies and the revolutionary movement of the Spanish people. The star that shone over the great British empire fell when it was broken apart by the surging tide of revolt of the nations and people under its yoke. Tsarist Russia's dream of world domination was shattered by the October Revolution. Hitler's hordes overran virtually all of Europe, yet eventually Hitler was driven to an abject end. The U.S. imperialists, who threw their weight about in the world for a time after the end of World War II, soon fell from the pinnacle of their power. This is the dialectics of history.

Ever Sharpening Fundamental Contradictions

The unbridled aggression and expansion carried out by the new tsars in past years have more than ever sharpened the fundamental contradictions inherent in the Soviet social-imperialist system.

At home, the conflict between the handful of bureaucrat-monopoly capitalists whom Brezhnev represents and the working class and the people of all nationalities has become more acute than ever. The mad arms drive and militarization of the country's economy have placed a backbreaking burden on the Soviet working people. Thus, "the yoke of a few monopolists on the rest of the population becomes a hundred times heavier, more burdensome and intolerable." (*Lenin: Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*.)

In glaring contrast to the malignant growth of the Soviet munitions industry is the conspicuous backwardness of the consumer industry. The country has to import industrial expertise and equipment as well as consumer goods in large quantities. It is faring worse in agriculture. Once a grain exporter, the Soviet Union is now one of the world's biggest grain buyers.

The country is in dire straits financially. Its internal debt runs to 34,400 million rubles and the last instalment will not be paid before 1990. With a foreign indebtedness totalling 20,000 million U.S. dollars, it is asking for more despite a reputation as one of the world's top debtors.

The Soviet people are now plagued by inflation, soaring prices, mounting taxation and unemployment in various forms. As revealed in the Soviet press, about 20 per cent of the workers and employees in Soviet industry have been drifting from place to place for years. The percentage is as high as over 60 in the building industry. The impoverishment of the working people is borne out by the fact that about a quarter of the population lives below the officially guaranteed "minimum subsistence level."

Merciless exploitation and fascist repression of the people by the Brezhnev clique have made class antagonism and conflict among nationalities within the country sharper than ever and the political and economic crises more grave. Acts of resistance by the working class and people of some nationalities have been reported in one place after another. The new tsars actually are sitting on top of a smouldering volcano.

The aggression, expansion, exploitation and plunder carried out by the Soviet social-imperialists everywhere have put themselves in a position exactly opposite to the countries and people of the third world. Through many years' experiences and practice in struggle, these countries and people have come to see more and more clearly that Soviet social-imperialism is more ferocious than old-line imperialism and colonialism. These countries and people who long were subjected to imperialist and colonialist enslavement will not allow the new tsars to ride roughshod and lord it over them. To safeguard their national independence and state sovereignty and to defend their natural resources and economic rights and interests at home, they have waged various forms of resolute struggle against the Soviet social-imperialists: dealing head-on blows to their aggression, clipping the claws of their subversion and infiltration, abrogating treaties with them, driving out their military personnel, dismantling their military bases, rejecting their "aid," not falling into their trap, exposing their despicable tricks and denouncing their hegemonist crimes. The raging struggle of the third world countries and people against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism is surging ahead and pounding at the Soviet social-imperialists with an ever mightier force.

The second world countries' discontent, resistance and vigilance against Soviet social-imperialism are

growing. The new tsars have exercised all-round control over certain East European countries, politically, economically, militarily and in foreign affairs, through the Warsaw Pact, the C.M.E.A. (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) and a series of bilateral treaties and agreements and maintained their colonial rule in Eastern Europe by stationing 500,000 Soviet troops there. The East European people have suffered greatly. But the heavier the oppression, the fiercer the resistance. The indignant people of the East European countries have time and again waged militant struggles that threw the Brezhnev clique into a panic. Eastern Europe is by no means a paradise for the new tsarist colonialists, but a powder keg that will explode violently any time. Facing the stern reality of the Soviet threat, West European countries have heightened their vigilance, strengthened their defence and made new progress in their joint struggle against hegemonism. The forces opposing appeasement are rising. This is a tendency of development not to be deflected by any bluster or deception on the part of the new tsars. Their various actions have also opened the eyes of the Japanese people whose angry roar against Soviet hegemonism is rising on the Japanese islands.

The rivalry between Soviet social-imperialism and U.S. imperialism has become ever more intense. The United States has vested interests to protect around the world, and Soviet expansion is all-pervasive. This state of affairs is unalterable. They clamour for "disarmament" and sign agreements, but continue to intensify arms expansion and desperately contend for military supremacy; they talk of "detente" and negotiations, but undercut each other's foundations and are at daggers drawn; they talk about "peace" and "security," but step up war preparations all the same. Soviet social-imperialism which is taking the "offensive" is a more dangerous source of war. The continued fierce rivalry between the two hegemonic powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, is bound to lead to a war some day.

Chairman Mao pointed out that "imperialism and all reactionaries, looked at in essence, from a long-term point of view, from a strategic point of view, must be seen for what they are — paper tigers" and that "the revisionist Soviet Union is a paper tiger too." Ferociously baring its fangs, Soviet social-imperialism which seems outwardly strong only frightens people with weak nerves. Surveying the whole world, we see that countries want independence, nations want liberation and the people want revolution — this has become an irresistible trend of history. Soviet social-imperialism which is taking the "offensive" in aggression and expansion abroad is heavily besieged by the world's people. Beset with difficulties at home and abroad and in the grip of crises, it is rotting with each passing day. If they dare defy the universal will of the people and launch a new world war, the new tsars will certainly end in complete ruin.

(A Commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent)