

Africa

Stand Up to the New Tsars!

FOLLOWING their armed intervention in Angola, the new tsars have gone further in their keen rivalry with U.S. imperialism to dominate Africa. With a view to whitewashing their unabated expansion and infiltration into the continent, they have advanced one preposterous argument after another, trying to justify their encroachment upon Africa.

The African people, on the other hand, are alerted by what the new tsars have said and done on their continent. They are standing up to the Kremlin overlords and exposing their lies and prevarications.

After the events in Angola, Moscow's mouthpieces cockily declared that further development of African events depended to a considerable degree on its "victory in Angola." This victory, so they said, had enabled "the freedom train to run full steam toward the Cape of Good Hope" and had opened up for the future Africa "new vistas of progress." Thus, the new tsars become the benevolent saviour of the African people!

According to the Soviet revisionist gentlemen, they alone can deliver the Africans from their distress and misery for two reasons:

One. Africa is backward. Most of the African nations "are sadly underdeveloped, with limited manpower and inadequate natural resources . . . nor are there competent cadres."

Two. The African states are polarizing toward two extremes — the "progressive" and the "reactionary" — and this polarization is "deepening year after year."

Consequently, it was claimed, African development is to be "determined by external factors." "(African) development would be difficult without foreign assistance." Only by "closely co-operating" with the Soviet Union "is it possible for Africa to advance smoothly towards social progress."

These insidious assertions flow from the same logic of the old-run colonialist aggressors. It is only natural that the African people should rise to challenge and refute them.

The new tsars' "Africa-is-backward" argument is a malicious slander. It serves as a cover for their exploitation and subjugation of the African people. It is common knowledge that the African continent which abounds in resources has always been a glittering prize in the eyes of the competing colonialists and neo-colonialists. Yet the new tsars, out of ulterior motives, alleged the continent's "insufficiency." It is also common knowledge that the underdevelopment of the African economy is the result of wanton plunder on the part of the colonialists and neo-colonialists. Yet the new tsars, who have a guilty conscience, have refrained from mentioning this historical fact. Many African people have come to see the new tsars for what they are and call them "the biggest hypocrites" and the "vipers one must be on guard against."

Public opinion in Africa has explicitly pointed out: "The problem of development is in essence a political problem." In his article "Backward Europe and Advanced Asia" written over 60 years ago, Lenin said: "Who does not know that Europe is advanced and Asia backward? But the words taken for this title contain a bitter truth."

Is it not true that the present relationship between the Soviet Union and Africa also contains such a bitter truth? A handful of renegades of the Soviet Union, a self-styled country of "advanced socialism," are carrying out criminal aggression and expansion and pushing neo-colonialism in Africa; at the same time, hundreds of millions of awakened people in Africa, a continent they slanderously describe as "backward," are seeing through the ugly features of the revisionist new tsars and waging a tit-for-tat struggle against them.

The Egyptian Government and people tore the mask off the Soviet revisionists who claimed to be their "natural ally," boldly declared the abrogation of the Egyptian-Soviet "treaty of friendship and co-operation" and cancelled the provision of facilities for the Soviet navy. Zaire sternly condemned the Soviet interventionist troops for the barbarous crime of bombing its border city. It solemnly affirmed that "the Zairian people are ready to meet Soviet subversive menace and aggression." Senegal indignantly exposed the Soviet social-imperialists' shameless action of providing it with dilapidated ships so that Senegal's fishery companies went bankrupt. The Sudan flatly rejected a despicable Soviet revisionist proposal which was in fact blackmail to raise the cost of an "aid" project — a hospital. African students in their demonstrations shouted: "Soviet social-imperialism, get out of Africa!" An increasing number of African countries refuse to take Soviet aggression lying down and dare to confront the "colossus" openly. All these fully demonstrate that Africa of today is an advanced Africa and an awakened Africa.

"The theory of African polarization" is a reactionary theory deliberately created by the new tsars for dividing Africa. They supported one organization and opposed the other two in Angola. Now they have divided the African countries into two groups — "progressive" and "reactionary" — in accordance with their attitude towards the Soviet revisionists. African public opinion penetratingly pointed out that Soviet revisionism "is dividing Africa down the middle."

Because of their reverse acts, the new tsars find themselves in a position of acute antagonism to the African people. Let us unite, act in solidarity and "fight against those trying to re-colonize Africa" — this has become a common militant slogan of the numerous African countries and their people.

Zambian President Kaunda pointed out: "Africa's power lies in the unity of its people and nations," whose "supreme principle" is "no intervention by foreign forces in Africa." Many African leaders in their statements, public opinion on the African continent and participants in international conferences have openly denounced the Soviet scheme to sow dissension and stressed militant unity in Africa. At the Extraordinary Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity held last January, a vast number of African countries stood up to Soviet pressure and frustrated the Soviet scheme to break up the O.A.U. In July, the 13th O.A.U. Summit Conference once again demonstrated the will of African countries to strengthen their militant unity, solemnly declaring that "we will never divide." Unity and co-operation have been developed in breadth and depth between African countries and national-liberation organizations, between African and Arab countries, and between the African countries themselves. This is a powerful rebuff to the new tsars who try to break up Africa.

The theory that "foreign aid decides everything" is an out-and-out gangster theory concocted by the new

tsars who assert that the weak should fall a prey to the strong. By "foreign aid," they mean Soviet infiltration and expansion; and by "deciding everything," they mean that the destiny of the African people must be decided by them.

From their bitter experience in dealing with the Soviet Union, many African countries have clearly understood just what Soviet "aid" is. The Egyptian people angrily pointed out: "The Russians are coming with their eyes and pockets wide open and arms stretching out . . .," "they try to colonize other nations in the name of friendship." A Kenyan paper said: "Conditions attached to the Soviet aid were even sometimes worse than Western aid," "political domination is precisely what Moscow is seeking." Zairian public opinion pointed out: "The present activities of the Soviets in Africa show that the intentions they publicly professed are just perfidious talk insulting the people of the world."

"The destiny of Africa must be held in the hands of the Africans," and "Africa's problems must be solved by the Africans themselves." These are the strong demands of the 400 million African people. The people of southern Africa in their struggle for national liberation have put forward their clear-cut slogan "Let us be freed by ourselves." The African countries are fully confident that they can uproot colonialism in all its forms and completely win their continent's liberation by relying mainly on the African people's own efforts. Those African countries which have won independence have quickened their tempo in consolidating political independence and seeking economic independence. They resolutely oppose superpower exploitation, plunder and control and demand the establishment of a new international economic order. At the same time, in keeping with their own conditions and characteristics, they have repeatedly taken active steps to get rid of the colonialist and neo-colonialist yoke step by step, and have achieved gratifying successes in promoting the national economy, culture, education and cadre-training. From their firsthand experience they are deeply aware that one must rely neither on U.S. imperialism nor on the new tsars. To rely on them will bring one endless trouble. The only way out is to count on one's own efforts.

The African countries and people want independence, liberation and revolution, while the new tsars want intervention, aggression and expansion. These two are diametrically opposed to each other, and the contradictions between them are irreconcilable. As the Soviet revisionists and the U.S. imperialists are contending for domination of Africa, the African peoples are sure to rise against these two hegemonic powers and stand up to them. The new tsars who try to hoodwink the public with a rotten colonialist fallacy are bound to be badly battered!

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent, September 30)