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THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA

-USSR - ASIA-

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THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA

~~-USSR ASIA-~~

[Following is the translation of an article by V. Tulyakov in Agitator, No 16, Moscow, August 1960, pages 31 - 34.]

Except for the republics of the USSR and the people's democratic states, there are scores of large and small countries in Asia which maintain the capitalist and feudal-capitalist relations. The populations of these countries represent about one-third of the whole mankind. These countries are beginning to play an increasingly active role in international life.

Some time ago many of these countries created great national cultures which have their roots deep in ancient history. However, due to feudal segregation they fell behind the Western European countries economically and were unable to withstand the cruel conquerors.

As history tells us, it so happened that during the 18th and 19th centuries -- and, in some cases, even earlier -- almost all of the frontier countries of Asia were subjected to colonial plundering and slavery. European colonizers implanted their "civilization" in Asia with fire and sword and retarded the development of enslaved countries for centuries.

All of the imperialist states owe their present prosperity, to a great extent, to the incalculable riches they amassed in Asia. The tears, blood, and curses of many millions of the victims of colonialism saturate these treasures on which imperialism grows like dough made with yeast. Imperialism rewarded the Asian peoples with back-breaking labor and frightful poverty, starvation and illiteracy, disastrous epidemics, and ceaseless violation of their national and human dignity.

As recently as just prior to the Second World War, ninth of the population of the frontier countries of Asia were in colonial or semi-colonial dependence to Japan, Great Britain, France, the US, and also the Netherlands and Portugal.

The peoples of Asia never accepted slavery. Under the influence of the great October Socialist Revolution their struggle for national liberation extended with enormous force and became better organized and more resolute than before. It increased continuously

by the year, despite the cruel repressions of the imperialists and the mass murders. The disgraceful and criminal system of colonialism on the Asiatic continent collapsed after the Second World War. The utter defeat inflicted by the Soviet Union on German fascism and Japanese imperialism contributed substantially to the victory of the national liberation movement.

As V. I. Lenin predicted, a new period of history ensued and the peoples of the Orient now participate actively in deciding the fate of the world. An overwhelming majority of the countries of Asia now appear on the world stage as independent nations, or as nations stubbornly defending their right to conduct independent foreign policy. Among the newly-emerging great powers are People's China, India, and Indonesia.

Several countries of Asia which won freedom after the Second World War are now a part of the world socialist system. These are: The Chinese People's Republic, Korean People's Democratic Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The Mongolian People's Republic marched onto the road of building socialism even earlier. Leaning upon the advantages of the new social system, and on the brotherly help and friendly cooperation of all socialist nations -- first of all the Soviet Union -- the countries of Asia marching to socialism achieved striking successes in the economic and cultural fields. Their example inspires and teaches all of the peoples who are striving to overcome the painful heritage of colonialism.

Among the non-socialist countries of Asia many adhere to the policy of positive neutrality, conformable in its spirit to the great principles of peaceful coexistence of different social systems. India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, and a number of other Asian nations are courageously defending their independence. They reject the stubborn attempts of the aggressors to draw them, by one means or another, into the military groups knocked together by the American imperialists (NATO, SEATO, CENTO). The unity of the peoples of the Orient in their struggle for peace and against colonialism, was vividly displayed and consolidated at the historic conference of 24 nations of Asia and Africa in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955. Its decisions, known as the "Spirit of Bandung" were accepted by the entire progressive mankind. The independent nations of Asia, together with the countries of the socialist bloc, advance firmly against the aggressive course of the imperialist powers and toward the policy of settling grave international problems by peaceful means for the peace and security of the peoples.

Taking into consideration the steadily growing role played by the peoples of Asia in the affairs of mankind, the Soviet Union has introduced into the order of the day the question of inviting the great powers of Asia to participate in the summit meetings of the heads of the state of the world's great powers.

The attainment of political freedom by the peoples of the former colonies and semi-colonies is the first and most important

pre-requisite for securing complete sovereignty. Such sovereignty calls for economic independence. Meanwhile, many countries of Asia which, for a long time had been simply a raw-material appendage of a small group of colonial powers, are now carrying a heavy burden of economic backwardness. Even in India - industrially, the most developed country of the non-socialist nations of Asia -- the per-capita production of consumer goods fell to a level where it is approximately 1/94 that in Great Britain and 1/132 that in the US.

A low rate of development of the productive capacity inevitably results in poverty. According to the data gathered by the UN, the per-capita annual income in the underdeveloped countries of Asia is the paltry sum of \$60.00.

The struggle of the non-socialist countries of Asia against their economic backwardness is all the more difficult because the capitalist monopolies of Europe and the US continue to control a significant part of the industry, agriculture, and foreign trade in these countries.

For instance, US and Anglo-Dutch capitalists (with French participation) control over 90% of the oil output in the Near and Middle East. The basic branches of the national economy of Malaya are the property of 12 large foreign companies.

Young Asiatic nations are fighting persistently for the liquidation of the dominance of foreign capital, for the achievement of economic independence, and for raising the standard of living of the population. From experience, their peoples realized that it was impossible to strengthen economic and consequently, political independence without first creating a national heavy industry. They firmly took this difficult path, knowing that it is the only one that is right.

In those Asiatic countries whose governments pursue policies advantageous to their national interests, long-term programs of economic growth have been developed. Specific successes in the creation of a national industry already have been achieved in India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia and certain other non-socialist countries.

When India embarked upon implementation of her first Five-Year Plan, the Western bourgeois press predicted its failure. However, the Five-Year Plan was completed. At present the republic is in the process of fulfilling a second Five-Year Plan and is marching confidently toward its goal of transforming an economically backward agrarian country into a country with well-developed national industry.

The unselfish assistance of the Soviet Union and of other socialist countries plays a tremendous role in the upsurge of the economy and culture of the non-socialist countries of Asia, as well as in their entire development. "The interests and aspirations of the peoples fighting against colonial oppression and for independence, development of a national economy, and for raising living standards, are clear and close to us" --- said N. S. Khrushchev, addressing a

large labor meeting in Moscow on 5 May of this year, after his goodwill visits to the countries of Southeast Asia. "Should more peoples decide to take this road, the development of their economy will be higher, the forces that stand ready to fight colonizers and imperialists will be stronger, and the struggle for equitable relations between the peoples, for mutual assistance in the development of economy and culture, and for the peace in the world, will succeed."

In 1960 the Soviet Union will afford assistance in the construction of 383 industrial projects in 22 underdeveloped countries of the world. Included in this number are non-socialist nations of Asia. Whereas, the imperialists use their economic relations with the underdeveloped nations for blackmail and extortion, our country does not saddle its aid with any fettering conditions of an economic, military, or political type. The Soviet people sincerely and wholeheartedly assist the small nations in creating their own industry and in strengthening their complete independence from the imperialists. The peoples of Asia know and appreciate this.

Parallel with the nations proceeding along the road of independence and self-supporting development, there are other countries in Asia which chose another -- pernicious and dangerous -- road. This may be said, for instance, about Iran, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines, which are entangled in a net of shackling economic and military agreements with the US. Here, power is in the hands of reactionary circles whose policies clash with national interests but are profitable to the aggressive imperialist forces.

Actually, these nations are devoid of independence. US imperialists lord it in these countries as though they were their own. The US has established its military bases in Pakistan, Turkey, Japan and the Philippines, which is fraught with very great danger for these countries.

The countries of Asia tied to the United States by mutual military pacts are paying for this dearly. Their economies are subordinated to militarization; all of their vital interests are sacrificed for imperialism. "Western imperialism did not bring happiness to the Philippines," stated the well-known Philippine author, Sirnil, recently. "Anyone who visits the Philippines will be convinced of the poverty of my people." This is true of all nations subservient to US imperialism.

Having completely exhausted their national resources for the armaments race, the governments of Iran, Pakistan and other countries -- participants of the military blocs knocked together by the US -- are seeking salvation in attracting the foreign, predominately American, capital for exploitation or, to put it more precisely, for plundering the national natural resources. Foreign capital throttles the development of the national industry of these countries and furthers their economical dependence on the imperialist countries. A characteristic fact: imports into Iran last year exceeded exports by 4.5 times.

The financial status of the various strata of the populations in the countries dependent upon the US imperialists deteriorates by the year, while the prices of food and essential consumer goods rise, unemployment increases, and so do the taxes.

American economic "assistance" is, in reality, simply a means of shackling the underdeveloped nations and of including these nations into military blocs. By offering this help the Americans are actually helping themselves. By this method they manage to get rid of old stocks of food and industrial goods and to extort money instead. Under the pretense of helping, the American monopolies penetrate deeply into the economy of the underdeveloped nations, achieve full control over them, and impede the development of national industry.

However, the peoples of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, and other countries of Asia which are involved in military alliances with the US imperialists, do not intend to accept the idea of submission to the imperialist oppressors, nor are they prepared to shed their blood for the benefit of American millionaires or multi-millionaires. They come out, more and more positively, against the US instigators of war and their local henchmen. We are witnessing an inevitable historical process, where peoples are throwing off the yoke of the reactionary regimes founded on American dollars and the American armed forces.

Two and one half billion dollars were invested by the US imperialists in the "Syngman Rhee folly," but this did not help their bloody protege: He was swept away by the angry people. The Menderes clique of Turkey, which was removed from power, cost them at one time two billion dollars. Chiang Kai shek in Taiwan, Ngo Ding D'yem of South Viet-Nam, and other American puppets will not escape their fate. Ground burns under the feet of those rulers who abandoned the peoples of their countries to the arbitrary rule of imperialism.

Leaders of the Japanese reaction who dragged through the Parliament their so-called "mutual cooperation and security" pact with the US, know the above through experience. The courageous struggle of the Japanese people against the pact which threatened the security of the peoples of Asia (and has no legal value) brought about, as we know, the disgraceful derangement of Eisenhower's visit to Japan and the resignation of reactionary, Kishi. The Japanese people continue their struggle against the intrigues of the Imperialist aggressors and for peace and cooperation with all nations.

There are still several small countries and territories in Asia which exist under an undisguised colonial or semi-colonial dependence on imperialist powers. These include: Aden, Goa, Bahrein Islands, and Oman. The national liberation movement in these countries and territories receives sympathy from the entire freedom-loving mankind.

We will be writing of individual frontier countries of Asia in the next editions of this magazine.