

Asia . . .

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Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries did not flee to India, but instead went into the countryside to develop the basis for a "People's War". The longer the issue remained unsettled, the stronger the people's forces became. In Dr. Lewis' words, "Evidently Maoists and other extremist groups, which have been comparatively weak in East Bengal, have not yet begun to compete for control of the insurgency. My guess, however, is that the talents of the official Awami League leadership do not run primarily to the conduct of guerrilla warfare. The longer the struggle persists, thereby both prolonging the internal turmoil within East Bengal and inducing radicalization of the India-based population, the greater will be the likelihood that the conduct of the insurgency, and therefore control of whatever autonomous regime may eventually emerge, will slip into tougher partisan hands." (The text of Dr. Lewis' paper can also be found in the Pacific Research and World Empire Telegram Volume III, Number 1, November-December, 1971.) A socialist East Bengal would be a source of strength for the West Bengalis struggling for their independence from India's ruling class. This was clearly unacceptable to the reactionaries in New Delhi.

SOVIET VS. U.S.

It is naive to think that India would have carried out its aggression against Pakistan without the open or tacit support of the two great imperialist powers, the Soviet Union and the United States. The position of the Soviet Union in this matter is very clear. In August, 1971, India and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of "peace, friendship and co-operation." This was in fact a treaty of military alliance. Since that time, the Soviet Union has supplied India with arms and material and has supported its expansionist policies in the United Nations. The present leadership in the Soviet Union should not be confused with the revolutionary leadership of Lenin and Stalin. Instead of supporting the just, revolutionary struggles of the peoples of the world as Russia did up to the death of Stalin, the revisionist leaders now support counterrevolutionary, repressive regimes. This is not a blanket fact as they have supported the revolutionary struggles of the Vietnamese people. However this may be a special case of direct confrontation with Russia's main imperialist enemy, the United States. From the Soviet Union's armed aggression against the People's Republic of China in 1962, to its invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, to its support of

reactionary Arab leadership in 1970-1971, to its support of Indian aggression against Pakistan in 1971, the pattern is fairly consistent. The Social-imperialists of Russia are attempting to gain influence, raw materials and new markets in every section of the world. Its arch imperialist enemy is the United States, but its real enemies are the revolutionary people of the world supported by the People's Republic of China. It is clear then that the Soviet Union's support of India is an attempt to get a piece of the South Asian action.

The position of the United States is not hard to figure out either. The misleaders of the United States may have miscalculated the intentions of the social-imperialist and Indian aggressors, but this seems unlikely. What probably happened is that by trying to play both sides of the conflict, that is India and Pakistan, Nixon and his bunch of war criminals were out maneuvered by the Soviet Union who made no attempt to support anybody other than India. The U.S. was left with nobody to support other than Pakistan. That support was more show than anything else. Arms shipments to Pakistan had been essentially cut off and the demonstration of power by a section of our Navy was weak. Jack Anderson has exposed a series of discussions between war criminal Henry Kissinger and a group of his lackeys. In their discussions, Kissinger said he is "catching hell" from Nixon because they are not being hard enough on India. During the course of the discussions Maurice J. Williams, deputy administrator, Agency for International Development made a revealing statement as to why the U.S. government could not take too hard a stand against India. He said "The Department of Agriculture says the price of vegetable oil is weakening and it would help us domestically...to ship oil to India." (The account of Jack Anderson's story can be found in the January 17, 1971 issues of "Newsweek" and "Time".) Therefore, the U.S. imperialists could not take too hard a stand against India, militarily, that is for talk is cheap, because they had to protect their markets and investments in India. Thus the U.S. stood by while the social-imperialists and Indian aggressors split up Pakistan and established the puppet government of "Bangla Desh."

Another consequence of these events could be an increase in the competition between U.S. imperialism and soviet social-imperialism. Both countries have recently reinforced their fleets in the Indian Ocean. An analysis of these events can be found in the Peking Review, number 2, January 14, 1972.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The hardest issue for the American left to understand is the actions of the People's

Republic of China. Those who support China seem to want it to be the shining star of the revolution and do everything that is right. That is, right from the American left's point of view. Therefore, when the American press showed the suffering of the East Bengali people, the immediate cry was for freedom for the suffering masses. This meant the defeat of the West Pakistani Army and the establishment of the Awami League Rule. When the press reported that China was supporting the Pakistani government, many of the American radicals were crushed. Their shining star was tarnished, China was wrong. Is this true? Here is what the Chinese government and people said: "The Chinese Government and people are closely following the developments of the situation on the subcontinent. We always maintain that the internal affairs of each country should be settled by the people of the country themselves and that disputes between countries should be settled through consultations by the countries concerned. We are firmly opposed to interference in the Internal affairs of other countries, to launching armed aggression and occupying the territory of other countries, no matter under what pretext these acts are carried out." ("Peking Review" number 50, December 10, 1971, page 7). China did not state that they support the oppression of the East Bengali people, but rather that the solution could not be imposed by another country. This is just what the Indian aggressors, social-imperialists and U.S. imperialists fear the most. As Dr. Lewis alluded to in his report, if the East Bengali people were left to themselves, the solution they would come up with would be people's war and the establishment of a socialist state. No country can free the population of another. The U.S. imperialists did not free the population of another. The U.S. imperialists did not free the people of the Dominican Republic by sending troops, nor have they freed the people of Vietnam, just to name a few examples, nor did the social-imperialists' invasion of Czechoslovakia free the Czechs, nor has the Indian invasion of East Bengal freed the Bengali people. The People's Republic of China's policy is clearly stated and its actions have been consistent with this policy. The shining red star of China is not tarnished, but stands out clearer than ever before.

A NEW STAGE IN SOUTH ASIA

At the present time, the revolutionary struggles of the East Bengali people have been temporarily set back. With the establishment of "Bangla Desh" with Sheik Mujibur Rahman at its head should buy the reactionaries some time. But the forces of social revolution in South Asia have been set in motion and Sheik Mujib will not be able to deliver the social justice

the Bengali people demand. The first country he visited after his release from West Pakistan was Great Britain, then he went to India, and finally made his grand entrance into "free Bangla Desh". It is clear from these actions and his past statements that he is laying East Bengal open to imperialism, and imperialism cannot afford social justice. The Bengali people will not wait long, and if the revolutionaries succeed in integrating themselves with the masses, the Bengali People should soon be on the road to liberation.

The events in South Asia have also affected West Pakistan and West Bengal. The workers and peasants of West Bengal have a long history of struggle against the oppression of the "ruling 22." Even the installation of the "progressive" president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has not fooled them. On January 3, 1972, more than 1,000 workers of the Pakistan Tobacco Co. seized the firm's factory, demanding that the firm meet their complaints. (The Oregon Daily Emerald, Vol. 73, No. 69, January 4, 1972, page 12). This is not an isolated incident. In West Bengal, the Naxalites have grown stronger and are beginning to integrate themselves with the peasants in the countryside surrounding Calcutta.

People's war is on the agenda for South Asia. The heroic struggles of the Vietnamese people is acting as a guide for the rest of the people of Asia and the world "All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful." (Mao Tse-tung).

Victory to the Vietnamese people! Victory to the Bengali people! Victory to the people of the world!

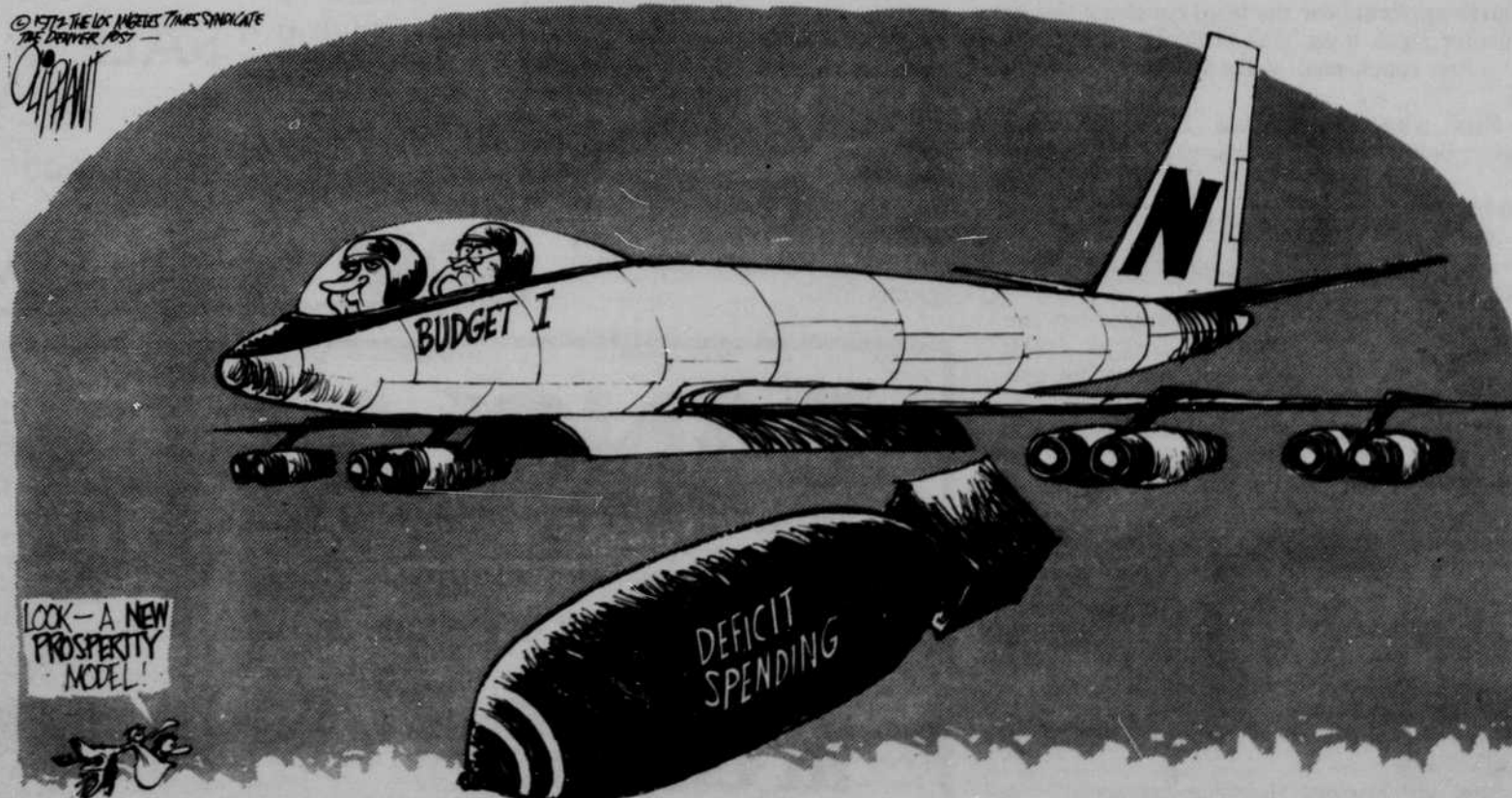
did man first
learn
to kill
when he found
love costs
one's self
hate costs
somebody else?

Marcellus Deleanor

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