

right to education, health service, cultural revival and democratic agrarian reform.

Special conditions have taken shape in the struggle for national and social liberation in the Republic of South Africa. There, capitalist relations hold unchallenged sway and have acquired a monopoly character. Domination by local and foreign, including multi-national monopolies, is being intensified. South African monopoly capitalism which supports and relies upon the racist fascist regime has shown that it is a staunch ally of international, chiefly US imperialism, the sworn enemy of the peoples of South Africa and their most brutal exploiter.

The South African Communist Party characterises South Africa's socio-economic system as "colonialism of a special type", where the colonialists and the colonised peoples live within the same national boundaries. Rhodesia, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa are examples of countries where capitalism has institutionalised racism as the foundation of colonial arbitrary rule and national oppression of the worst kind.

Today, with mass actions against the reactionary and inhuman system of apartheid reaching unprecedented intensity in South Africa and the armed struggle in Zimbabwe and Namibia rising to high tide, the Communists demand an immediate end to the disgraceful racist Vorster and Smith regimes. With imperialist intrigues the different variants of a "phased settlement" of the problems of the South are designed to weaken the liberation struggle and maintain racist supremacy. Repressions and massacres by the racists cannot halt the liberation struggle or break the will of the fighters for freedom and independence.

In the Republic of South Africa the unity of the African working class, the peasantry and the landless unemployed is growing stronger step by step.

The South African working class, which is increasingly concentrated at large mining, industrial and manufacturing enterprises, is the leading force not only in the vitally important spheres of production but also in the liberation struggle. lately, it has repeatedly staged general political strikes and convincingly demonstrated its ability to head the revolutionary struggle and lead it to its victorious consummation. In many rural areas the people have

also taken part in various militant struggles.

It is also in the long-term interests of the non-exploiting sections of the white population to participate in the anti-racist, anti-fascist struggle. The main content of the struggle at the present stage is the national liberation of the African people — a struggle led by a revolutionary alliance headed by the African National Congress and which includes the South African Communist Party. At the same time the national liberation struggle in the Republic of South Africa is inescapably and indivisibly linked with the struggle to abolish capitalism, racism and all forms of exploitation. This plus the fact that the South African working class has its own party can create the objective material prerequisites for the speedy transition to socialism.

Stages of Development

But for the vast majority of the African countries, whose social development has been held up by colonialism, it is not possible to effect a direct transition from pre-capitalist to socialist relations. Before embarking upon socialist construction they have to go through a series of intermediate stages, through a more or less long period of transition. During this transition period spontaneous development gives way to purposeful, conscious policy consistent with the vital interests of the working class, the peasantry and the patriotic intelligentsia, of the broadest national democratic strata. A number of countries of Tropical and Southern Africa have recently chosen the way of socialist orientation. Only during the first half of the seventies Madagascar, Benin, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and some others have been added to the number of such countries and their numbers are growing.

The revolutionary-democratic governments of socialist-oriented countries have to give effect to a large spectrum of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and anti-capitalist reforms and ensure progress in the general direction of socialism, and create the political, material, social and cultural preconditions for the transition to direct socialist construction. Unlike the bourgeois neo-colonialist regimes in capitalist-oriented African countries, which usually have recourse to anti-popular methods or, at best, apply reformist recipes, the revolutionary democrats use revolutionary methods with the support