

from determining the course of struggle.

It is a fundamental understanding of Leninism that every oppressed nation must have the right of self-determination; that to deny that right is only to postpone, perhaps indefinitely, the hour when the propertyless classes within the nation can take their destiny in their own hands and begin the class struggle against the domestic ruling class for their total emancipation.

The bourgeoisie in Bangla Desh began the struggle for independence, but the history of similar struggles in the epoch of imperialism has shown that nowhere has the national bourgeoisie been able to carry the fight for independence from imperialist domination and for true national sovereignty through to its completion. Only the oppressed masses of workers and peasants can fulfill this historic task in a struggle for the socialist reconstruction of society; but in Bangla Desh today, as in many other oppressed nations around the world, the ultimate class struggle that will put the international reorganization of society on the order of the day makes its first appearance in the form of a self-determination struggle against very real and pervasive national oppression.

For those who live and struggle here, inside the imperialist monster itself, our responsibilities to the Bengali people and to the consciousness of American workers must first be to expose consistently the role of U.S. imperialism. Nixon is not a mediator desiring peace on earth; rather he is seeking to fan the flames of a war that can strengthen the U.S. economy through lucrative arms sales while it threatens to embroil Washington's two greatest rivals for world hegemony in a suicidal conflict.

Finally, let it be said that the United Nations can play no progressive role in this war. The UN has shown itself again and again, in Korea, the Congo, and in its consistent failure to condemn U.S. aggression, to be dominated by imperialism. (China's admission does not alter this fact. Nor does it make intervention correct; the fate of the masses of the Indian subcontinent must be settled by them alone. Intervention by either capitalist or socialist countries would set back the revolutionary movements of the workers and peasants.)

To invite in the UN in whatever role is only to invite in Nixon and Co. behind a "peace-loving" facade. We must unmask the representatives of a monopoly capitalism whose strength in Asia, as everywhere, ultimately rests on their success in exploiting the workers and oppressed people at home.

SOCIALISM AND DIPLOMACY CLASS SOLIDARITY BEST DEFENSE OF WORKERS' STATES

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by NAOMI COHEN

One of the most disorienting aspects of the present war between India and Pakistan is the diplomatic support being given the contending sides by the USSR on the one hand, and the People's Republic of China on the other. Both socialist countries have gone far beyond the diplomatic niceties necessary to maintain normal relations with capitalist countries and have wholeheartedly endorsed the policies of the ruling classes of India and Pakistan respectively.

The Soviet leaders, who are echoed in this country by the CP organ, the Daily World, are claiming to support "democratic" India as against the military dictatorship ruling Pakistan. At the same time, the Chinese leaders have, in effect, underwritten the slaughter of the Bengali people by holding that the rebellion of the oppressed East Bengalis is a purely internal problem for Pakistan.

In the midst of all the thundering against each other, both socialist countries have failed to give ideological leadership to the world revolutionary movement. Neither has pointed out that both India and Pakistan are ruled by equally oppressive capitalist classes. Neither has defended the right of the Bengali people to self-determination, without interference from either India or Pakistan.

This kind of blank-check approval given a bourgeois government has long been characteristic of the foreign policy of the conservative Soviet bureaucracy. Fully endorsing the rule of Egyptian President Sadat while he jails Egyptian Communists is only one example in a long history of