

3. AFRICAN COMMUNISTS— ALLIES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATS

The Communist movement in Africa took shape more than half a century ago. It was broken neither by colonial arbitrary rule, nor by brutal repressions.

The Communists were among the first in the African continent to lay bare the true nature of imperialism, colonialism and racism, and set as the immediate practical goal the realisation of the people's demand for independence and self-determination in their revolutionary struggle against foreign enslavers. The Communists were the first in the continent to show the African peoples that the struggle against imperialism, for democracy and social progress ultimately meant a struggle for socialism.

We see clearly that in this historical epoch it is impossible to overcome the political, economic and social crisis in our countries without resolutely moving towards socialism; that age-old backwardness cannot be abolished and no fundamental socio-economic progress is possible without taking the road of socialist renewal. Today this is acknowledged by many national leaders, who recognise that for the economy of backward African countries there is no road of development more effective than the road of socialism. Together with the revolutionary democrats, the Communists have shown that the socialist-oriented development of the African countries in the direction of socialism is both necessary and possible and indicated the motive forces of this process.

The Communists stand on the same platform as the revolutionary democrats in the struggle to give effect to progressive reforms, rationally develop the national economy, improve the revolutionary democratic state and its organs (the armed forces, the government apparatus and so on), raise the people's living standards and pursue a policy of alliance with countries of the socialist community.

Furthermore over the past few years a growing number of revolutionary democrats have taken a positive stand in relation to Marxism-Leninism. While upholding the principles of scientific socialism common to all countries, the Communists consider that the strictest consideration for the local national features of each country

is the prime condition for applying these principles in practice.

Working together Communists, revolutionary democrats and all progressive forces can solve in an internationalist spirit the important ethnic and national problems. Imperialism and local reaction are using some ethnical differences to destabilise and to disintegrate many African countries, especially progressive ones. African Communists fully support the position of the OAU concerning the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers and the resolving of disputes by negotiations and not war.

The forces of reaction national and international use anti-communism, chauvinism, tribalism and religious fanaticism in order to confuse the broad masses and to reverse the process of socialist orientation. It is therefore necessary to carry out in an internationalist spirit a consistent and principled fight against all forms of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism.

The philosophy and religious convictions of the revolutionary democrats cannot be an obstacle of their cooperation with the Communists in the joint struggle against the imperialist and racist enemies. The Communists urge the closest possible unity of all democratic forces, irrespective of religion, and condemn religious intolerance and fanaticism. Moreover, the Communists take into account the low development level of the African countries, the weak class differentiation in many of them, the psychology of the different African peoples, their commitment to religion and much else. However, all this does not mean that each country or even the entire continent will have its "own" socialism differing from scientific socialism. Neither is this the view of a large section of the revolutionary democrats, who have practically unanimously opted for scientific socialism against "socialism of a national type".

The Road to Socialism

Some revolutionary African ideologists supported by imperialist circles utilise the doctrine of "African socialism" to divert the African peoples from the road of revolution, the only possible road to socialism, and to isolate them from the world progressive forces especially the international Communist movement on the pretext of "national exclusiveness". The theory of "African socialism" appeared