

and peoples. They are unremittingly fighting to consolidate their freedom and independence. More and more liberated countries are taking the road that can ensure a socialist orientation in their development. They are resolutely defending their historic option and repulsing the interference of reaction and imperialism in their internal affairs. In our continent the same objective laws of social development operating throughout the world manifest themselves but in a form consistent with the national characteristics and historical features in our continent and its islands.

The collapse of colonial empires, the winning of political independence and the formation of independent nation states in Africa is one of the greatest historic gains of the African peoples. This was made possible by the changes in the international correlation of class forces due to the defeat of the Hitlerite fascist coalition and of Japanese militarism, the weakening of international imperialism, the emergence of the world socialist system, the great upsurge of the national liberation movement and the unfailing support given to it by the socialist states and the international working-class and Communist movement.

The peoples that have won political independence are intensifying their efforts to consolidate it and to achieve economic independence. Life, and the logic of the liberation struggle are repeatedly demonstrating that these objectives are closely related to the struggle for social liberation.

The socialist orientation of the progressive African states is one of the manifestations of the objective laws of the modern epoch, the epoch of transition of a growing number of nations from an exploiting system to socialism.

The glorious victory of the heroic people of Vietnam under the leadership of its Marxist-Leninist Party over US imperialist aggression, represents one of the most inspiring pages of the revolutionary movement of our time. Today under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam a reunified Vietnam is on the road of socialism, progress, peace and democracy. This victory as that of Laos and Kampuchea galvanised revolutionary energies throughout the world.

The victory of the protracted armed liberation struggles of the liberation movements in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau

were events of outstanding historic significance for the continent of Africa generally and Southern Africa in particular. The victorious liberation movements of Angola and Mozambique have set themselves the task of creating conditions for the building of socialism in their countries. To lay the foundations for their new societies they are creating state forms based on the workers and peasantry led by MPLA and FRELIMO which have begun the process of transforming themselves into vanguard parties of the working class guided by the scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The ever-growing solidarity of the forces of socialism and national liberation was recently most strikingly in evidence in the struggle of the Angolan peoples against imperialist and racist aggression and African reaction. The glorious victory won by Angola with the support of the Soviet Union, Cuba, other socialist countries, progressive African states and all democratic forces made a significant contribution to wiping out colonial slavery, racism and neocolonialism in our continent. This victory is an impressive expression of the strength of proletarian internationalism. Now that Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, the republic of Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe have won their independence the African peoples are rising for a decisive assault on the last imperialist strongholds of colonialism and racism in Southern Africa.

1. THE PRESENT PHASE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The era of colonial slavery has left a deep imprint on the social structure of the African countries, on their economy and on their political and cultural life. The socio-economic and technical backwardness of the African peoples is the direct result of imperialist plunder and exploitation. The grim consequences of criminal colonial rule in Africa have not yet been overcome. International imperialism and its chief instrument the multi-national monopoly corporations remain the chief enemies of and main obstacle to the progress of the peoples of Africa.

The economy of most African countries is generally dependent on the imperialist monopolies. Monocrop farming, imposed by the