

of the masses against imperialism and against the local exploiting classes and strata.

Given its heterogeneous social basis, the ideological and political struggle going on within their circles and external reactionary pressures the revolutionary democrats are subject to vacillation between the two antagonistic orientations — one to socialism, the other to capitalism. Consequently the possibility that some revolutionary democrats may seriously reverse their progressive social policies is very real. The more resolutely they wage the struggle against imperialism and local reaction, stand up for social progress, move ever closer to the ideology of scientific socialism and have confidence in the working class and poor peasantry, the greater their role as a significant political force in present-day Africa.

The maturing of the external and internal factors ensuring the transition to socialist orientation has in recent years been making faster headway in many African countries. Socialist ideals are becoming a realistic goal of a growing number of African nations; this process will continue to gather momentum because it is in keeping with the character and scale of our epoch's world liberation movement and the growing influence of world socialism and the international working-class and Communist movement.

As the experience of countries applying it in practice shows, socialist orientation means the pursuance of the following objectives: (1) the overthrow of the neocolonialist regime of the exploiters and the establishment of a revolutionary-democratic state having an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist orientation; (2) the abolition of imperialism's political rule, the restriction, and then in the future the abolition of its economic domination, the pursuance of an appropriate policy of nationalising foreign capital, state control of its activities and through gradual removal from the national economy; (3) the abolition of feudal exploitation and the implementation of progressive agrarian policies; (4) the restriction and control of the private capitalist sector; (5) the build-up of a state sector and a cooperative movement, and the creation of the prerequisites for their successful performance in industry and agriculture; (6) a struggle against the ideology of the exploiters which includes all forms and manifestations of anti-communism and the assertion of the ideals of scientific socialism; (7) the enforcement of general democratic

reforms with the active participation of the toiling masses at all levels of decision-making, the acceleration of social and cultural progress; (8) a progressive foreign policy, and the utmost support for the struggle for independence, security and the freedom of nations, for peace and detente, for an alliance with the socialist world, and (9) the creation of prerequisites for the building of socialism.

Life itself demonstrates that these objectives cannot be achieved in a complete and consistent manner in every particular case.

It is in particular because these countries remain in the orbit of the capitalist world. Using economic and financial possibilities of the world capitalist market and new instruments (Lome convention, etc.) imperialism has powerful means to undermine the policy of genuine economic independence.

The preservation of socialist orientation in the face of major obstacles raised by imperialism demands in the first place that progressive forces and broad popular masses should be conscious of the complexities of their long struggle but also of the possibilities available to win it.

The above-mentioned measures have not only an anti-imperialist but also an anti-capitalist and pre-socialist character. They are inevitably at the core of the class struggle between the reactionary forces advocating neo-colonialism and capitalist development and the progressive forces fighting for true national independence and social progress. It is by resolutely giving effect to all these transformations that the possibility opens up in the African countries for expediting progress.

The Communists, with all their forces, stand up for the implementation of the above-mentioned measures as an indispensable stage on the road toward a socialist future. They share these goals with the revolutionary-democratic forces whom they consider to be their comrades-in-arms. Experience shows that these measures can only be realised in the course of fierce class-struggle and that they require a firm alliance of all patriotic, democratic and socialist-oriented forces.

Heritage of Colonialism

The shortage of material resources and trained personnel, the bitter heritage of long colonialist rule, pressure from external