

NO INTERVENTION IN BANGLA DESH!

December 1, 1971

The struggle of the people of Bangla Desh for self-determination is in danger of being overshadowed by the antagonisms of the great powers which have become involved as parties to the present military conflict.

As Indian and Pakistani troops clash along the border of Bangla Desh ("East Pakistan"), the United States is diplomatically juggling with both sides, while supporting Pakistan militarily. Washington claims to have ended its arms shipments to Pakistan, but even its own press is not convinced. It is also not precluded that U.S. imperialism may wind up providing arms to both sides in the hopes of generating a suicidal struggle while exploitation, and the most profitable trade of all — in arms — goes on.

U.S. imperialism's objectives are to continue to exploit the millions of near-starving peasants and workers in India, Pakistan, and Bangla Desh. They would prefer doing this without becoming directly involved in the war, particularly since they are still trying to chart a new course to compensate for the great losses suffered in Southeast Asia and the consequent shift in consciousness among the masses in the U.S., who now strongly oppose any further military adventures.

U.S. SEEKS WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND USSR

But the other element of U.S. strategy vis-a-vis the Indian sub-continent is that Washington wants nothing more, despite all its pious protestations to the contrary, than to see the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union drawn into a war against one another. This has been the aim of imperialist diplomacy ever since the development of the two

large socialist countries, for the U.S. realizes what a terrible setback such a course would mean for the world socialist revolution, both in terms of the morale of the workers and oppressed, and for the material advantage this would give the imperialists. If the two great socialist powers were tied down in a war, even one fought by proxy, Wall Street's hands would be freed to intensify its rapacious search for profits in Asia, the Middle East, and all over the globe.

Certainly the foreign affairs analysts of the U.S. imperialist ruling class must feel that the possibility of provoking such a confrontation is more likely in the present situation than at any previous juncture in history, since People's China is supporting the Yahya Khan government, while the Soviet Union has signed a military pact with the Indian bourgeoisie.

It is particularly unfortunate for the whole revolutionary movement that China is now doing what they have correctly attacked the Soviet revisionists for doing over many years: aligning themselves with a belligerent bourgeois regime instead of with the masses who are in revolt. Nor can these alliances be said to favor either the Pakistani or Indian masses, who are decidedly unenthusiastic about the sabre-rattling carried out by their respective ruling classes. Even the Indian workers and peasants who sympathize with the Bengali liberation struggle show no desire for a war between India and Pakistan.

BENGALI SELF-DETERMINATION, KEYSTONE OF STRUGGLE

What began last spring as a self-determination struggle of the oppressed nation of Bangla Desh could still be the spark of a wider revolutionary struggle on the whole subcontinent. We believe, as was stated in our analysis of August 17, 1971, that all communists and progressives must attempt to further the revolutionary struggle of the workers and peasants of the whole area, which is today taking place within the framework of a struggle for self-determination. To support the bourgeoisie of either India or Pakistan is to liquidate the class struggle, inflame national antagonisms, and undermine the possibility of a united front of all the poor and oppressed against imperialism and domestic bourgeois reaction.

It must be added, however, that the Bengali people are correct in trying to get aid wherever they can find it. But India's motives in giving such aid must be assessed from the point of view of the Indian bourgeoisie, who are not interested in self-determination for the Bengali people but want to stifle the class struggle that threatens to erupt throughout the whole Bengali nation, including the millions within India's borders. India is feverishly trying to take command of the rebellion, in collaboration with the conservative Awami League, to prevent the revolutionary and socialist elements in the people's liberation forces