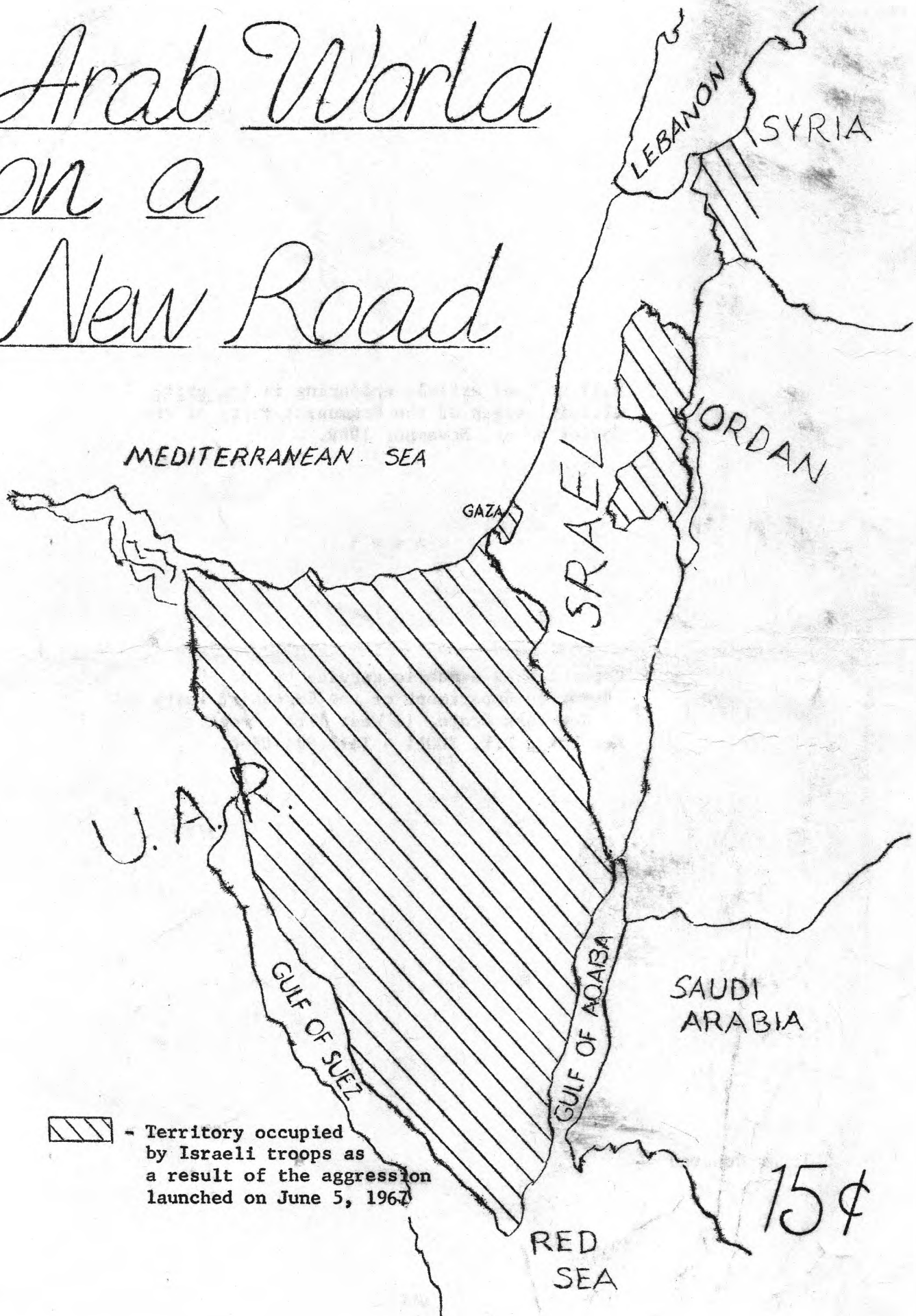


Arab World
on a
New Road



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

LEBANON

SYRIA

JORDAN

GAZA

ISRAEL


U.A.R.

SAUDI ARABIA

GULF OF SUEZ

GULF OF AQABA

RED SEA

 - Territory occupied by Israeli troops as a result of the aggression launched on June 5, 1967

15¢

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ARAB WORLD ON A NEW ROAD

In recent years the national liberation struggle of the Arab peoples has climbed another step, its anti-imperialist character has been intensified. Having won political independence after World War II and having created their own statehood, the Arab peoples started actively to overcome the economic, social and cultural backwardness, they had inherited from the colonialists, in order to advance rapidly along the road of national revival and progress.

Particularly prominent today against the general background of the anti-imperialist movement in the Arab World are the United Arab Republic (UAR), Syria and Algeria; their profound social and economic reforms have enabled them to take the road of independent development and social progress. These countries are officially adhering to socialist views.

In the difficult struggle against the machinations of the neocolonialist and reactionary forces, the young republican regimes in Iraq, the Sudan, Libya, Southern and Northern Yemen and Mauritania, are striving to protect their national independence and territorial integrity and to place their natural resources at the service of their peoples. These countries are also an important mainstay of the Arab national liberation movement.

In the rest of the Arab World where imperialism and neocolonialism, in cooperation with the local ruling circles, are still managing to restrain the pressure of the people's movement, the struggle of the progressive, democratic forces, going on in complicated conditions, is not weakening either.

The Arab liberation movement plays an outstanding role in the struggle against world imperialism, says the summing-up document of the International Conference of Communist Workers' Parties in Moscow. "It is exerting a positive influence on the entire movement against imperialism and neocolonialism in the Middle East and Africa. The struggle of the Arab peoples against imperialism and the Israeli aggression is a part of the general struggle between the forces of freedom and socialism throughout the world, on the one hand, and world imperialism, on the other.

"The growth of the movement for national liberation, and the social progress of the peoples in this strategically important and oil-rich area, evokes the violent hatred of the imperialists and the oil monopolies, which are weaving a web of intrigues and plots against this movement, and resorting to wars and aggressive actions."

The triple imperialist aggression against Egypt at the end of 1956 was an attempt to turn back the hands of history's clock in the Arab World. Israel's aggression against Arab states in June 1967, inspired and supported by U.S. reactionary circles in the first place, was also a result of an imperialist plot. The plotters, however, have not achieved their main aim, that of overthrowing the progressive regimes in the UAR and Syria. Backed by the wide masses of working people in their countries and by all-Arab solidarity, as well as thanks to all-round and effective support of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and progressive forces of the whole world, these regimes have held out and proved their vitality.

The anti-imperialist struggle in the Arab world has now the aim of overcoming the consequences of the Israeli aggression and liberating the occupied Arab territories. Despite all the difficulties, the front of the national liberation struggle in the Arab World continues to grow wider. The recent victory of the revolutionary forces in the Sudan and Libya, is a graphic confirmation.

The most important successes of the Arab liberation movement have been achieved in close inter-action and with the help of the socialist countries, the Soviet Union in the first place. The anti-imperialist revolutionary democratic circles in Arab countries knew from their own experience after the end of World War II that only the socialist states would support their national policy.

September 1955, was the first landmark on the way of effective cooperation of Arab countries with the socialist world. In those days the leaders of the young Egyptian republic concluded an agreement on deliveries of arms and military equipment to their country from the socialist states. This put an end to the monopoly of the imperialist West to supply arms to the Arabs, the monopoly which made it possible for the imperialists to rule supreme in this area.

After this step of the Egyptian leadership, headed by Gamal Abdel Nasser, followed other, no less decisive, actions to consolidate the national dignity and independence of the Arabs: the nationalization of the Suez Canal, the heroic resistance of Port Said and the whole people of Egypt to the triple aggression in October-November, 1956. The aggressors have failed to achieve their aims. The courage of the Egyptian people, the firm position of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, of all peaceful forces made the invaders leave the territories they had seized.

The changes in Egypt gave a powerful incentive to the Arab liberation movement. On July 14, 1958 the "Middle Eastern Bastille" collapsed--the pro-imperialist monarchic regime in Iraq was overthrown. In 1962 the nearly eight-year-long heroic liberation struggle of the Algerian people was crowned with victory. The Soviet Union's support played an important role in strengthening the national independence and sovereignty of all these countries.

The Arab states which won political independence were faced with no easy tasks of building a new life. The national regimes in Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Iraq and other Arab countries had to start independent development in conditions of extreme economic and social backwardness: from half to four fifths of all their gainfully employed population worked in agriculture with its feudal and pre-feudal production relations. Industrial workers did not account for more than 10 percent. The dominating positions in the economy were held by imperialist monopolies and the big local trade, financial and industrial bourgeoisie, connected with them.

The imperialist circles, in alliance with the local reactionary forces in the Middle East, tried to benefit by this difficult situation and to nip in the bud the Arab countries' aspirations to economic independence. Despite all the intrigues, however, Egypt and Syria managed to stand up to the imperialist pressure.

In one of his speeches during his visit to the Soviet Union in 1958, President Nasser said in this connection: "I would like to remind you, friends, that your support of our cause played a great role in our victory in this battle... Your steps, that is, the dispatch of arms to Egypt and Syria, meant defeat of the principle of monopoly on arms and were one of the factors that contributed to defeat of the imperialist policy, the policy of domination over Arab peoples. Apart from that, your policy of supporting Arab states, which are defending their freedom and independence, raised hopes in the hearts of those peoples who are still fighting for their liberation."

In 1957-59, the Soviet Union concluded an agreement on economic and technical cooperation with Syria, Egypt and Iraq, and in 1963 with Algeria. This laid the foundation of the independent national economy of these countries. Specific feature of the Soviet economic aid was that it was meant for the industrialization of these countries, the construction of vitally important economic projects, such as the Aswan Dam in Egypt, the hydro-power complex on the Euphrates (Syria) and the iron and steel mill in Annab (Algeria). The Soviet Union is helping its Arab friends in making geological surveys, in training local technical specialists and in the accomplishment of other urgent tasks of economic development and the creation of a state sector of the economy.

The anti-imperialist foreign policy of the Arab states and their efforts for independent economic development were from the very beginning fiercely resisted by the imperialist powers, the USA in the first place. They did not want to lose their advantageous positions in the Middle East, particularly the opportunity to plunder tremendous oil resources of this region. The so-called "Eisenhower doctrine," proclaimed in January 1957, had the aim of raising a barrier in the way of the growing liberation movement of the Arab peoples, of giving the right to American imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of independent Arab states under the pretext of combatting "the communist menace."

The independent Arab countries rejected this "doctrine." The seeds it sowed, however, were poisoning the situation for a long time. The outbursts of anti-communism in Arab countries in the late fifties and early sixties, particularly in connection with the short-lived unification of Egypt and Syria (1958-1961) and the reactionary military coup in Iraq (February 1963), did a lot of harm to the cause of mutual understanding and cooperation between the anti-imperialist, democratic forces of Arab countries, faced with imperialism and internal reaction.

When the independent Arab countries started to build their national economy they did not only experience political pressure exercised by imperialism and the internal reaction. Apart from that, they lacked the means with which to finance their industrial construction, they were very hard up for local specialists to efficiently guide their economy. The fact that the national leadership which came to power did not have a revolutionary scientific ideology, which would have enabled it effectively to solve complicated problems of state and economic construction, also made itself felt.

Undoubtedly this is what explains the considerably contradictory nature of the development of the UAR and other Arab countries. They had to stand up to the tremendous pressure of the imperialist and reactionary propaganda, to overcome many negative survivals of the past and anti-communist prejudices; to go through the hard trials of class battles before a number of the leaders of Arab countries began to share the principles of a truly revolutionary outlook, of scientific socialism. The influence of the Soviet experience, the example of the successful economic and cultural construction in the USSR and in other socialist countries played an outstanding role in this.

In the past years great changes have taken place first of all in the views of the leaders of the Egyptian revolution. In the first stages they paid a great tribute to petty-bourgeois illusions, adhered to the conception of a "class peace," tried to seek a compromise with reaction, but beginning with the sixties President Nasser and his followers started to carry out important social and economic reforms, spearheaded against the big, and part of the middle, bourgeoisie -- reforms which corresponded to the interest of the working people. The revolution in Egypt thus entered a new stage characterized by its stronger democratic and social content.

As a result of the agrarian reform nearly one million feddan (feddan equals .42 hectares) of land were taken from the big feudals; this amounted to 16 percent of the cultivated area, which was distributed among landless peasants. The maximum size of a plot of land possessed by one family was reduced from 200 feddan to 100 feddan. In 1964 compensation for the confiscated land to landlords was abolished and payments by fellahs for the plots received were reduced by three fourths.

The nationalization of big and medium private industrial companies and enterprises, of all banks and insurance societies, the introduction of state control over foreign trade resulted in the state sector taking the leading place in industry and finances, in transport, in internal wholesale and foreign trade. The state sector now accounts for more than 80 percent of the industrial output. The UAR has built some 800 industrial enterprises. New industries have developed: iron and steel, oil, chemical, electrical engineering and machinebuilding. The size of the working class has grown: it now tops one million workers.

Important social changes have taken place in Syria since the leadership of the country was taken in March 1963 by the Arab Socialist Awakening Party (Baath, for short). Particularly deep social and economic changes were introduced when power was taken by representatives of the Left-wing of this party in February, 1966. The state nationalized all big and the majority of medium industrial enterprises (with a capital of nearly 440 million Syrian pounds), all banks and insurance companies, and a number of leading industries. Control was established over the country's foreign trade. In 1966 the state sector accounted for 80-85 percent of all industrial production. The implementation of the agrarian reform was expedited.

Important social and economic measures have also been taken in Algeria. As many as 2.7 million hectares of land (39 percent of all the cultivated area) which were confiscated from the French, and more than 400 industrial enterprises have been given over to self-governing committees set up on the initiative of the working people. The state now controls electric power stations, railways and means of communication, currency operations and emissive activity. The nationalized sector accounts for 80 percent in industry (without oil) and for 60 percent in agriculture.

All these measures were accompanied by steps to improve the social and material conditions of the working people. The state established a 7-8 hour working day, social insurance for workers of state enterprises, a guaranteed minimum wage or salary, paid leaves, free education and in some cases free medical aid.

Having taken the road of social development, the UAR, Syria and Algeria experienced a sharp need for a progressive, political organization, capable of leading the masses, of arming them with a clear program of action to create the necessary prerequisites for transition to the building of socialism.

In 1962 the Charter of National Actions was made public in the UAR. This document was characterized by the Egyptian leaders as a program for the period of transition to socialist construction. The Charter proclaimed that "scientific socialism is a form which most corresponds to the definition of a correct path to progress," and rejected the capitalist way as unacceptable for the UAR and incapable of leading to social and economic progress.

The social basis of the existing regime in the UAR is defined in the Charter as an alliance of the working forces of the people - peasants, workers, soldiers, intellectuals and "unexploiting" (primarily petty) capital. The document recognizes the existence of the class struggle in Egyptian society, but it points out that since "the reactionary classes are deprived of state power and capital," "it is possible to settle class differences by peaceful means" in the UAR.

Speaking about the basic trends of the social and economic development in the UAR, the document says that its aim is to create a strong state sector that would dominate in the country's economy (the private sector should play a subordinate role and be under the people's control), to plan economic development, to give part of the land to the fellahs as their personal property and to expand cooperation in the countryside.

The Charter also provided for the creation of a mass political organization of working people, the Arab Socialist Union (ASU), the aim of which is to "liquidate the consequences of the domination of capitalism and feudalism, to make a socialist revolution, to determine the policy of the country in the interests of the working people and control its implementation on behalf of the people." Under the ASU Rules workers and peasants must constitute at least half of its members, just as of all elected organs of the ASU. Feudals and capitalists whose property was nationalized or whose land was confiscated had no right to join the union.

The formation of the ASU started in 1963. Its organizations began to tackle economic problems, problems of raising labor productivity, improving discipline, combatting exploiting elements, abolishing illiteracy and so on. The UAR has set up an Institute of Problems of Socialism with branches in big cities, and has lifted the ban on the distribution of Marxist literature in the country. Study of the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism is an integral part of the curricula of Party schools. The position of Egyptian Marxists, who were persecuted in the past, has been normalized. They have been given an opportunity to take part in the building of the ASU, and to join in social and production life.

A considerable turn to the left has taken place in the past years in the Baath Party which is in power in Syria. It has begun to pay more attention to social problems, is trying to expand its mass base. In March 1966, the extraordinary Baath Party conference took a decision to purge the party from bourgeois elements and to turn it into "a party of workers, peasants and working intellectuals." The conference expressed a desire "to build socialism on a scientific basis, proceeding from concrete conditions in the country and the interests of the working masses." The party also stated the necessity of establishing "people's control over the means of production" and supported wide cooperation with all "national progressive elements."

The complicated conditions of the liberation war in Algeria under the leadership of the National Liberation Front (NLF) and not always normal relations between various detachments of the Algerian revolutionary forces made an imprint on the formation of this party. It included a lot of representatives of the propertied classes who connected hopes of consolidating their position and taking the place of expelled colonialists with the struggle for national independence. At the same time the overwhelming majority of the members of the party were poor peasants who expected that the national liberation and the ousting of the colonialists would be followed by an agrarian reform first of all.

The main program documents of the liberation revolution--the Tripoli Program (1962) and the Algerian NLF Charter (1964) are of a clear anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist nature. They put forward concrete tasks in nationalization of the basic means of production and finances, in the carrying out of an agrarian reform in the interests of the working people, in the completion of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolution. The Algerian Charter proclaimed the task of building socialist society in accordance with the principles of scientific socialism. This document said that the NLF must open its doors primarily to workers and peasants.

Frequent references to the ideas of scientific socialism in the program documents of Arab revolutionary democracy, even if these references are of a general character, are profoundly significant fact.

It shows that the logic of the struggle for the interests of the people leads to the adoption of the principles of scientific socialism.

The Arab Socialist Union in the UAR, the Syrian Baath Party and the NLF in Algeria have not confined themselves only to national problems and inter-Arab relations. They have supported the struggle of all the peoples against imperialism, resolutely condemned U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam and stated their desire to cooperate with other revolutionary forces in the struggle for peace, national liberation and social progress. The parties have established contacts with a number of Communist and Workers' Parties, with the CPSU in the first place. Party delegations are exchanged between the CPSU and ASU, the Syrian Baath Party and the Algerian NLF. The national democratic parties and organizations of Arab countries have stated that they have learned many useful things for themselves from the vast experience of the CPSU in socialist construction, from familiarization with the activities of other Communist and Workers' Parties.

In 1966-67 meetings and seminars of representatives of socialist trends in Arab and African countries were held in Cairo and in Algiers, at which the first useful comradely discussions took place between Arab Communists and revolutionary democrats. Representatives of the CPSU and some of the fraternal Parties attended as observers.

The importance of all this for the development of the liberation struggle of Arab and other peoples is tremendous. A wide anti-imperialist front has arisen in the Middle East. Its basis is the progressive regimes of the UAR, Syria and Algeria.

By 1967 the international imperialist circles, led by the USA, concluded the working out of the plans for a new blow at the Arab liberation movement, the aim of which was to prevent the further weakening of the positions of Western monopolies in the Middle East. The Middle Eastern oil resources and the strategic position of Arab countries are attracting the imperialists and they are not going to leave the Arabs in peace.

According to the latest data, published in the USA and Britain, the bowels of the Middle East and North Africa contain 76 percent of the prospected oil resources and a third of all known resources of natural gas, excluding the socialist countries. Out of 37,000 million tons of "black gold," found by the beginning of 1969 in the Middle East, more than 20,000 million tons are controlled by American oil companies, this being nearly five times more than the prospected oil resources in the United States itself.

Five American oil monopolies extracted more than 260 million tons of oil in the Middle East in 1967; this allowed them to make a net profit of 1,000 million dollars. In the past 20 years the overseas oil business has pumped some 12,000 million dollars of net profits out of the Middle East, having invested slightly more than 1,500 million dollars. The desire of the American oil monopolies to preserve their control over this unique source of "black gold" at any cost is one of the main reasons of the tension and imperialist adventures in the Middle East.

Israel's aggression in June 1967 was prompted first of all by the aspiration of imperialism to do everything possible to prevent the further development of the revolutionary liberation movement in the Arab World by overthrowing the progressive national regimes in the UAR and Syria. Israel's Zionist leaders, who have their own extensive predatory plans, were used to achieve these criminal aims. The Middle Eastern conflict thus has a social-class, and not a national basis, as imperialist propaganda is trying to present it.

The events in the Middle East since Israel's treacherous aggression have completely confirmed the justness and accuracy of the analysis of the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict given in the documents of the CPSU.

"Israel's aggression," says the resolution of the June (1967) Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU, "is a result of the plot of the most reactionary forces of international imperialism, of the USA in the first place, spearheaded against one of the detachments of the national liberation movement, against progressive Arab countries which have taken the path of progressive social and economic reforms in the interests of working people and which are following an anti-imperialist policy." A similar assessment was given in the summing-up document of the International Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have occupied a principled and consistent position in the Middle Eastern conflict. In the difficult period for the Arab peoples, the leaders of the Communist and Workers' Parties and the heads of government of the socialist countries met twice: on June 9, 1967 in Moscow and on July 11-12 of the same year in Budapest. The decisions of these conferences played a great role in stopping the Israeli aggression and in rendering support to Arab countries, the victims of this imperialist attack.

The Soviet Union rendered immediate and great assistance to the UAR and Syria in strengthening their defenses, granted them economic aid and sent them food and medicines free of charge. In the world arena, at the UN, our country used its great authority to support politically the victims of aggression. The constructive position of the USSR contributed to the adoption by the UN Security Council of the resolution of November 22, 1967 which demands withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories and provides for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

It goes without saying that the consequences of the Israeli aggression and the difficulties that it has engendered have left their traces on the internal development of Arab countries, the UAR and Syria in the first place. The local reactionary forces, which regarded the situation as a favorable one, in which to start a fight for the restoration of their influence and former privileges, roused their heads. The remnants of the exploiting classes, particularly in the countryside, the bureaucratic stratum in the state machinery, part of the officers coming from the privileged groups of the population and the reactionary clergy, tried to take revenge. Their hopes to regain their former leading positions were fanned by the fact that the young national democratic organizations--the ASU and the Baath Party--had not yet become effective political parties with a socialist orientation. Imperialist pressure from without in the form of continuous armed provocations by Israel, grew stronger. Apart from the moral and political harm, the occupation inflicted considerable economic damage on the UAR (the closing of the Suez Canal, the loss of the Sinai oil deposits, the decline in tourism, etc.). The reaction tried to take advantage of all this.

In these conditions the attention of the UAR government was directed first of all to the speediest reorganization and restoration of efficient armed forces and the consolidation of the internal front. In accomplishing these tasks a class approach was taken in the main, the correctness of which had been realized by the leadership of the country in the process of social transformations. Officers who were workers and peasants by birth started to replace those generals and officers who had discredited themselves in the officers' corps. Military leaders with progressive views began to be promoted in the army. Measures were taken to study and use more effectively the rich military experience of the Soviet Armed Forces.

In the economy, though not without hesitation, a course was taken to strengthen the state sector and continue industrialization with adherence to the economic stimuli of increasing production, raising efficiency of capital investments and improving the work of the economic planning organs. Those members of the national leadership (Z. Mohi-ed-Din and some others) who advocated the reduction of the state sector, encouragement of private capital and expansion of economic cooperation with imperialist powers, were excluded from the government.

The March 30th Program, put forward by President Nasser in 1968, expressed the determination of the government and of the Arab Socialist Union firmly to follow the path of national independence and social progress. The program confirmed the line of cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as well as with the young independent countries in foreign policy, and of raising the role of the Arab Socialist Union and its reorganization on the principles of democratic centralism in home policy. The session of the General National Congress of the ASU elected leading organs of the Union--the Central Committee and the Higher Executive Committee.

In July 1969 the third session of the ASU General National Congress stated that despite the difficulties of wartime, the ASU was continuing the implementation of progressive social and economic reforms. On President Nasser's proposal the congress adopted a resolution further to reduce the maximum plot of land per capita to 50 feddan (this measure affects 10,000 land owners and gives 450,000 feddan of land to the state). The session also took a resolution concerning the organization of state farms on the newly developed and expropriated lands.

The consolidation of the internal front on a progressive social basis and the strengthening of its economic position have made it possible for the UAR, in close cooperation with the Soviet Union, consistently to follow the line for a political settlement of the Middle Eastern crisis in accordance with the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967. The UAR officially stated its readiness to fulfill this resolution in all its parts and clauses. This has considerably consolidated the international position of the country, has exposed even more the aggressive predatory policy of Israel's ruling circles and has intensified their international isolation.

In mobilizing the forces and resources of the Arab world to resist the Israeli imperialist aggression and to liquidate its consequences, Arab solidarity and cooperation play no small role. The decisions of the Khartoum conference of the heads of Arab states (end of August-beginning of September, 1967) were an important step towards strengthening the economy of the countries which had suffered from the aggression. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya, which are deriving big profits from oil, have committed themselves, pending the liquidation of the consequences of the aggression, to allocate 130 million pounds sterling to the UAR and Jordan annually. In this way the UAR is making up for the losses in foreign currency, caused by the closing of the Suez Canal.

The top-level meeting of representatives of five Arab countries--the UAR, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the Sudan-- in Cairo in September, 1969, promoted the further strengthening of the resistance to Israel's aggression and coordination of efforts in the military sphere.

In connection with the predatory policy of Israel and its crimes against the peaceful Arab population in the occupied areas the partisan movement on the lands seized is spreading. The Palestine Arabs, fighting for the restoration of their national rights, are taking an active part in it. In conditions when Israel continues its aggression and refuses to fulfill the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1957, all progressive, democratic forces of the world are supporting the Palestine resistance movement aimed at the liquidation of the consequences of the Israeli aggression, and regard this movement as a just, anti-imperialist, national liberation struggle.

The growing resistance of the Arab countries, the UAR in the first place, to the aggressive expansionist course of Israel, the stronger inter-Arab solidarity are exerting a revolutionising influence on the whole Arab world. The aggressive policy of imperialism and international Zionism is turning against them themselves.

Instead of undermining the liberation movement they have its consolidation. A graphic confirmation of this is the above mentioned success of the revolutionary forces of the Sudan and Libya which have overthrown their reactionary regimes. The first thing that the revolutionary-democratic leaders of the Sudan and Libya did was to proclaim their determination to strengthen the struggle, jointly with other Arab countries, against the Israeli aggression, to follow the path of national independence and social progress. The collapse of the pro-imperialist monarchy in Libya was, therefore, regarded by the imperialist circles as a highly alarming symptom of the growing revolutionary processes in the Arab world. The Republic of Libya is a rich state, whose profits from the oil resources amounted to nearly 1,000 million dollars last year. The resolute transition of Libya to the side of the fighting peoples adds to the possibilities of the Arab countries in their resistance to Israel's aggression. This is something for the Israeli militarists and their patrons to ponder over!

Since the June war a new independent Arab state has been formed in the south of Arabia, the People's Republic of Southern Yemen, which, having proclaimed an anti-imperialist program, has joined the ranks of the other independent Arab states. In the hard struggle against monarchist elements, supported from the outside, the republican regime in the Yemeni Arab Republic has become stronger.

Important changes took place in Iraq when the Iraqi Baath Party came to power in July 1968. The new government issued laws which freed peasants from paying for the land which they had received under the agrarian reform, and ensured pensions to workers. It stated its intention to decide the Kurd problem by peaceful means. Iraq was the first Arab country to recognize the German Democratic Republic and establish diplomatic relations with it. Its example was followed by the Sudan, Syria and the United Arab Republic.

The Iraqi Baath Party is undergoing a serious ideological evolution. Its rule in 1963, as is known, was accompanied by repressions against Communists and other progressive forces. Now, critically revising its past, the party is releasing from prisons Communists and other democrats who have been given an opportunity to take part in the common work. The Baath Party has also shown initiative in opening a dialogue with the Iraqi Communist Party with the aim of creating a progressive national front in the country. "The Baath has realized the necessity of a dialogue and an appeal for unity with the Iraqi Communist Party in the first place, for many reasons," said the Al-Saura, the newspaper of the Iraqi Baath Party. "The Iraqi Communist Party in its activity proceeds from the conceptions of scientific socialism which represents the interests of the proletariat; this party has important relations with the broad masses, a militant past, and international contacts with the socialist countries and Communist Parties which are on the side of the Arab revolution."

In other Arab countries too conditions for fruitful activity of Communists are gradually appearing.

In Jordan the Communist Party has become legal and acquired an opportunity to work actively in the framework of the national anti-imperialist front, to mobilize the masses to parry Israel's aggression.

The Syrian Communist Party was able to hold its congress in Damascus (June 1969) for the first time in twenty-five years. The congress took important decisions, confirming the line of the Communist Party for cooperation with the Syrian Baath Party in order to abolish the consequences of Israel's aggression and promote Syria in advance along the chosen path of progress towards socialism. At its extraordinary conference in March 1969, the Syria Baath Party admitted the necessity of cooperating with all progressive forces of Syria in the framework of the national front.

In Algeria the consistent anti-imperialist activity of the Houari Boumedienne government, favoring the building of an independent Algeria and the development of its economy in the interests of the working masses, is creating favorable prospects for developing mutual understanding and cooperation among all sincere revolutionaries and fighters for the socialist future of the country, including the organization of Communists--Socialist Vanguard Party of Algeria. Although the Communists' proposal for a dialogue with the ruling party of the National Liberation Front has not yet brought the desired results, the need for this is becoming more and more evident. On their turn, the Algerian Communists are trying to overcome their former erroneous appraisals of the events in the country.

In Israel itself resistance to the reckless extremist course of the government is also growing. The Communist Party and other progressive forces of the country, despite the obstacles raised by the Zionist ruling circles, are selflessly working among Jewish and Arab working people, explaining to them the danger, which the Israeli rulers' aggressive chauvinistic policy towards the Arab countries, holds for the national interests of Israel. Speaking at the International Conference of the Communist and Workers' Parties in Moscow, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, Meir Vilner said that the Communists of Israel demanded complete fulfillment by the Israeli government of the Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967, which provides for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories seized during the June conflict, and for recognition of the right of all Middle Eastern states to independent and sovereign existence.

The joint actions at the Conference of Communists of the Arab countries and of Israel, who showed a high spirit of proletarian internationalist solidarity, contributed to the adoption by the international forum of an important Statement in Support of the Just Struggle of the Arab People Against Israeli Aggression.

The situation in the Arab World continues to remain tense. The imperialists do not give up their attempts to weaken the resistance of the Arab peoples, to sow distrust and enmity among the states of this region. This is borne out, in particular, by the latest events in Lebanon. Alongside the encouragement of Israel's armed provocations the imperialists are banking to a great extent on the activation of the internal Arab reaction. In Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia repressions have again started against progressive leaders and organizations. The reactionary circles are striving to hamper the growth of revolutionary processes in the Arab world. The favorite tactics of these circles is to try to squeeze the liberation struggle into the Procrustean bed of narrow nationalism and Islamism, to deprive it of its progressive social content and to prevent the unification of all patriotic forces. Attempts to push the Palestine resistance movement on the path of extremism are also being made.

These undermining actions are particularly dangerous at a time when the aggressor, armed to the teeth, still occupies Arab Lands, refuses to withdraw his troops and by his constant armed provocations creates the danger of expansion of the military conflict.

Arab peoples, however, are enhancing their vigilance. Their consciousness and the understanding of who are their enemies and who their friends, are growing. By strengthening their anti-imperialist unity and by using as their basis the all-round selfless aid of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, the international working class movement and all the forces of peace and progress, the Arab peoples will win their just struggle.