

Anti-Hegemonic Struggle Developments

THE year 1975 witnessed a new situation in Latin America. The struggle to safeguard national independence, security and national rights and interests continued surging forward. The Latin American countries and people directed the spearhead of their struggle not only at the superpower close by, but more and more at the other which has extended its reach so far and wide and is more insidious and frantic. The Latin American peoples became ever more keenly aware of the importance of "guarding against the tiger at the back door while repulsing the wolf at the front gate."

Social-Imperialists Not Allowed to Sneak in

It is the superpowers themselves that drove the Latin American countries to push forward their anti-hegemonic struggle. With the capitalist world in the grip of its most serious postwar economic crisis, U.S. imperialism, which always regarded Latin America as its "backyard," now exploits and plunders the countries there more ruthlessly in every respect. To meet the need of its global strategy of contending for hegemony, Soviet social-imperialism has used despicable tricks of sham support but real sabotage, and sham assistance but real domination in its relations with the Latin American countries. Describing itself as their "natural ally" and vociferously advocating "detente," "peaceful coexistence" and "international co-operation," the Soviet Union expanded and infiltrated in those countries through different channels and methods in an attempt to cut the ground from under the United States. The two superpowers' ever more intense rivalry posed a serious threat to and even impaired the national independence, security and national interests of the Latin American countries.

Government officials and public opinion in Latin America last year showed strong anti-hegemonic sentiments and made out the true colours of Soviet social-imperialism more clearly. They were increasingly aware of the fact that while opposing one superpower, they must intensify the struggle against the other, keeping a high degree of vigilance against the latter. The Soviet Union and the United States were leading the world to war, Mexican President Echeverria pointed out early in 1975. "We are against the attempt to organize a new division of the world and establish a new colonial slavery under the cover of detente," he said. Last October Peruvian President Morales Bermudez said that Peru was "against all forms of foreign domination and all forms of economic, political or military dependence on

any international centre of power." Guyana Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister Christopher Nascimento noted that the Soviet Union and the other superpower "are concerned with maintaining a stranglehold on the economies of the third world countries." Government leaders or high-ranking officials in Venezuela, Brazil and other Latin American countries expressed or reaffirmed their resolve to oppose any external hegemonic influence. All this demonstrates that the Latin American countries and people have further awakened. They will neither halt on the road of freeing themselves from oppression by one superpower and fighting for independent development nor allow the other superpower to sneak in and clap the fetters of neo-colonialism on them.

Economic Hegemonism Opposed

The Latin American countries and people last year waged their struggle against superpower hegemonism particularly in the economic field. Voices for "winning economic independence" and "getting rid of dependence on foreign countries" resounded in all parts of the continent. More than two-thirds of the countries took positive actions and measures to defend their national resources, economic rights and interests. In defending their sovereign right over sea resources, littoral countries such as Mexico, Peru and Ecuador reiterated their solemn position on their 200-mile maritime rights. The Mexican Government's decision to establish a 200-mile exclusive economic zone last November constituted a new step in opposing the maritime hegemonism of the superpowers. The Latin American countries' struggle against transnational corporations developed from the stage of individual action to that of united action by many countries. Some Caribbean and Central American countries set up multinational soft coffee, aluminium and shipping companies. Established by 25 countries last October on the basis of regional integration organizations, the Economic System of Latin America is the first economic co-operation and consultation organ in the history of the continent to comprise nearly all Latin American countries and exclude the United States. Setting up the system was not only a positive measure in breaking up the old order of the "inter-American system" long controlled by one superpower, but also a blow at the other which had intensified economic expansion in Latin America.

The Latin American countries and people also fought superpower hegemonism on other important occa-

sions last year. For years they demanded that the United States carry out "a deep-going reform in economic and trade relations" in connection with Latin America. In January 1975, government officials and public opinion in more than 20 countries condemned the United States for refusing in its new trade act to grant a "preferential tariff" to those developing countries which had taken part in organizations of raw materials producing countries and nationalized monopoly enterprises owned by U.S. capital. On the other hand, Latin American countries were very indignant at the acts of the Soviet Union which gave verbal "support" to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone but actually refused for years to sign Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. In a written statement in May, the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) pointed out that the Soviet attitude "constitutes one of the most patent instances of discrepancy between deeds and words" and stems from "the exclusive interests of the superpower." A resolution unanimously adopted at the fourth session of the general conference of OPANAL in Mexico City called on the Soviet Union to sign additional protocol II — an actual deed which would have committed it to the peace and security of Latin America. At the Geneva U.N. Sea Law Conference, delegates of the Latin American countries which took the lead in unfolding the campaign for 200-mile maritime rights, together with delegates of many developing countries, waged another round of bit-for-bit struggles against the maritime hegemonism of the two superpowers. They exposed the obdurate stand of the superpower that consistently uses the trick of sham support

but real sabotage and, under the signboards of "freedom of fishing," "freedom for scientific research" and "freedom for navigation," opposes the exercise of sovereign rights by the developing littoral countries over their exclusive economic zones and the straits within their territorial waters. At international meetings such as the Second Conference of the U.N. Industrial Development Organization in Lima and the 7th Special Session of U.N. General Assembly in New York, delegates of Latin American countries and other regions of the third world co-ordinated their actions through close consultation against the interference and sabotage plots of the superpowers, the main defenders of the old order. The struggle covered a series of vital questions ranging from energy, raw material prices and international trade to the international economic order in general. Comparatively positive results were achieved at these meetings. The Soviet revisionists did everything possible at many international meetings to peddle such trash as "disarmament" and "detente" in a vain attempt to divert the orientation of the struggle of the developing countries in Latin America and other regions against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism. However, all their conspiratorial activities were opposed and frustrated.

The situation in 1975 proved that the anti-hegemonic struggle torrents in Latin America are rolling onward and things there are becoming ever better. Strengthening unity and persisting in struggle, the Latin American countries and people will certainly win new victories this year on their road of safeguarding national independence, state sovereignty and national interests.