

Why Moscow Bans the Term "Poor and Rich Countries"

AS the Fifth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries is about to open, the ruling clique in the Kremlin has seen fit to use its big stick once again. It clobbered the concept of "the poor and rich countries," saying "a highly adverse role is played" by the concept which finds currency "among the participants of the non-aligned movement that the modern world is basically divided into a 'rich north' and a 'poor south.'" This "fallacious theory," it declared, "cannot be accepted" by the Soviet Union. With an aristocratic air, the new tsars "deplored" the use of the word "superpower" by the leaders of the non-aligned nations,

smearing them as "lackeys of the imperialists," and accused them of refusing to accept the "foreign [Soviet] ideology."

This ballyhoo is a poisonous arrow aimed at the non-aligned movement. It unmaskes the so-called "natural ally" of the movement and exposes the ferocious features of the Soviet revisionists who have always opposed and shown hostility to this movement.

Moscow's venomous attack on the anti-hegemonic struggle waged by the non-aligned countries and other third world countries in the international economic

field and its invectives against the concept of "poor and rich countries" are nothing new.

Back in 1973 on the eve of the Fourth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries, Brezhnev put pressure on the chairman of the conference by sending him a letter in which the conference was warned not to discuss the differences between poor and rich countries, not to expose superpower plunder and exploitation of the third world and not to put the Soviet Union on a par with the other superpower. The non-aligned countries took no heed of Brezhnev's intimidation. The political declaration adopted at the conference pointed out in explicit terms "a world where side by side with a minority of rich countries there exists a majority of poor countries."

As a matter of fact, the vigorous struggle for the establishment of new international economic relations is one waged by the poor countries against the rich countries. Internationally, the call for combating oppression, exploitation and plunder becomes increasingly loud, and the torrent pounding on imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism is irresistible.

The Mozambican paper *Noticias* said recently: "The poor countries should unite with poor countries to strengthen the unity between them." Speaking at the Fourth Session of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development held in Nairobi last May, representatives of the third world countries scathingly denounced the plunder and exploitation of the poor countries by the colonialists, imperialists and hegemonists. From their own experience many countries roundly condemned Soviet hegemonic practices, pointing out that the two superpowers' oppression and exploitation of the third world countries are the stark reality of the world today. A Mexican representative said: "Up to now, history has demonstrated that the prosperity of the powerful nations is built on the basis of exploitation and poverty of the weaker ones." The Algerian paper *El Moudjahid* pointed out on June 1 this year that the inexorable existence of bipolarity of dividing the world into rich and poor countries should not be overlooked.

Why did the new tsars fly into a rage at the mention of "poor and rich countries"? This is because the classification of countries into poor and rich ones will reveal the relationship between the Soviet social-imperialists and the vast number of developing countries as essentially a relationship between exploiters and the exploited, between plunderers and the plundered. In addition, it will strip the Soviet revisionists of their disguise as a "natural ally" who extends "support" and "aid" to the developing countries. As is well known, the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, are the biggest international exploiters in the world today. The struggle by the poor countries against the old international economic order is directed at the hegemonism of the two superpowers.

For many years, the two superpowers have done everything possible to bully and boss the third world

countries. Here the Soviet revisionists stick out a mile. They have been completely discredited before the people for resorting to tough and soft tactics, splits and disruption and aggression and intervention. Under the signboard of "aid" and "international division of labour," they have outdone the colonialists and neo-colonialists in their unbridled plunder and exploitation of the large number of poor countries in the third world, inflicting on them untold sufferings. As the Sri Lanka paper *Janawegaya* pointed out: "This imperialist country [the Soviet Union] is one of the biggest imperialist exploiters of the modern world."

For fear of being "put on a par with" the other superpower, the Kremlin's new tsars hastened to assert that the Soviet Union "is not responsible" "for the economic backwardness of the developing countries," an apology which serves only to betray their guilty conscience. The essential point of their attempt to ban all mention of "poor and rich countries" is to forbid the third world countries from opposing hegemony and Soviet social-imperialism.

The great revolutionary leader Lenin pointed out: "The characteristic feature of imperialism consists in the whole world, as we now see, being divided into a large number of oppressed nations and an insignificant number of oppressor nations, the latter possessing colossal wealth and powerful armed forces." (*The Second Congress of the Communist International: Report of the Commission on the National and the Colonial Questions.*) Lenin's teaching not only makes clear the political demarcation line between the many poor countries and the two superpowers in the world today, but also sets forth penetratingly the class nature of their relationship as one between the oppressed and the oppressor, between the exploited and the exploiter. "The watershed does not lie between the 'big powers' and the 'small countries,' or between the 'poor countries' and the 'rich countries'" — all these absurdities uttered by Brezhnev and his cronies, coupled with their ban on reference to the differences between the poor and the rich countries and consequently the nature of Soviet hegemonism, only prove that they are shameful renegades to Leninism and a sinister enemy of the poor third world countries.

Injustice naturally brings on complaints. Exploitation begets resistance. Wherever there is hegemonism there is a struggle against it. Moscow is only day-dreaming when it thinks it can forbid the poor countries to speak out and bind the non-aligned movement hand and foot. By reinforcing their mutual aid and co-operation and persevering in united struggle, the non-aligned and other third world countries will shake off the trammels clamped down on them by those who stubbornly stick to the old international economic order. They will forge ahead undauntedly in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent,
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