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EDWIN MADUNAGI

Eddie Madunagi

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of
ECOWAS

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Department of the NLC said that Nigeria's economic difficulties are not limited to her boundaries alone but should be seen from a global perspective.

Comrade Aborishade said that about two-thirds of the world's population live under a situation which the World Bank described as a condition of life characterised by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infantile mortality and low life expectancy.

He attributed the bad economic conditions existing in third world countries to the fact that about 500 million multinational monopolies control over 90% of the world's economic ventures. He said workers in Nigeria today are a symbol of suffering because of the capitalist arrangement in the society.

He said capitalism is in business for profit adding that the only God capitalists know is profit and this profit they reinvest for more profits so as to be able to drive other competitors out of market.

In his closing remarks, the chairman Comrade Hassan Sunmonu called on the Federal Military Government to "open the gate for political debate". He said "the army is already playing politics so that it will be hypocritical for the govern-

Why is Africa starving?

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culture should include that of agriculture-related, branches, sectors, services, e.g. input manufacture, marketing and distribution system, background industry, infrastructure, and the establishment of a mechanism, and economic environment e.g. price and incentive system, permitting agricultural development, too.

c) The economic development concept considered ideal should be not only comprehensive and balanced but also complex, i.e. it must cover the social socio-political aspects — such as education, public health, demographic policy — as well.

d) What is necessary for a lasting and comprehensive solution of the food problem is not only an elaboration of the above economic and social development concept and its adaptation to the

ment to prevent the people from making political debates".

He also referred to the mass retirement of workers as a bad policy and warned that unemployment brings all sorts of social vices adding that no amount of killing the armed robbers would solve the problem unless the government tackles it from the root by abandoning her bankrupt ideology of dependent capitalism.

The occasion was rounded off with the ever popular solidarity song "There is victory for us".

special relations of the individual developing countries but also an elimination of all the counter-interests that want to maintain the prevailing situation. And in this context not only the present ruling class, local bourgeoisie, big landowners, heads of tribes, big farmers, plantation owners, mercantile and financial capitalists, members of the local elite etc., is to be given consideration to, but also the interests of foreign capitalists and transnational corporations. That is to say, for carrying through the above-outlined deep-going, comprehensive and complex social and economic changes, it is necessary to alter not only the internal economic, social and political relations but also the present order of the world economy, it is necessary to put an end to the unequal and symmetric world economic positions of the African developing countries.

OATUU 1986

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Q: *What should be the role of OATUU given the serious socio-economic problems facing Africa?*

ANS: OATUU should focus on those problems that are actually debasing the life of the African masses like hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, under-employment and economic exploitation. These are the areas that the OATUU should focus its attention.

Q: *What are your projections for Accra '86.*

ANS: I am not a soothsayer but I want to say that we shall do our best and we are very confident that by the grace of God we shall win.

Can Babangida save Nigeria?

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justified on the following grounds:— (a) strict observance of our laws (b) payment of adequate taxes (c) mandatory reinvestments of a specified part of the profits in our economy (d) maximum utilization of the national resources like labour, transportation, nationally produced commodities (we should not buy insinuations such as, 'they are crude or substandard etc) (e) specific agreement in training our technical personnel and skilled workers.

It needs to be mentioned that foreign loans and capital in themselves spell no danger. They can be used to our national advantage. The point however is loans usually have political strings while the sole aim of foreign capital is profit which is repatriated to the detriment of the economy.

The Babangida administration should under no condition accept the tree tablets from International Monetary Fund namely: the devaluation of the naira; removal of subsidy from petroleum products; the policy of import liberalisation.

The Babangida administration needs civilian allies in its self-appointed task of economic reforms. The administration should set out to strengthen the worker/peasant alliance. This is the largest class in the country and one may add that if they are drawn in they will form the most effective bulwork and defence of the administration. A government defended by the worker-peasant alliance is no push-over.

Finally this administration, if it desires "progressive changes for the better" should gear up for the following

- a people's taxation policy and strict control over its observance.
- price regulation and control over prices to put an end to profiteering.
- stringent rules for issuance of import licences.
- strict observance of foreign trade monopoly.
- strict currency control.

There can be no doubt that if the Babangida administration takes side with the people, imperialism and our "agbero" capitalists will take umbrage but the administration should rest on the fact that the people themselves will be in the first line of defence of the administration they would come to regard as theirs.

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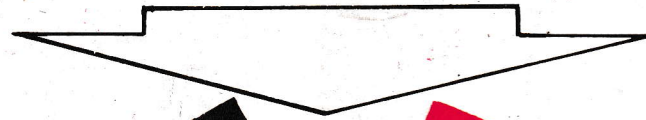
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