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NEW HORIZON

Nigeria's Marxist Monthly

VOL. 6

NO. 3 MARCH/APRIL 1986

GHANA OPTS OUT:

'No More Western Democracy'

Wade



OIL PRICES THREATEN BABANGIDA'S BUDGET

Will he succumb to imperialist diktat?

1/21



Debate! panel!! Debate!!!

Political Debate?

World Marxist review

PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM

085/3/p97

FROM OUR MAILBAG

IMF Fall-Outs — Babangida's next challenge

Thank you very much for your editorial 'IMF fall-outs Babangida's next challenge.' I found it informative and enlightening. I agree fully with the editorial that with the popular support that the Babangida's administration is now enjoying from the people, the government should now become the people's government while the ruling army should also now become the people's army. That means the two bodies should be understanding and must be alert and responsive to the people's plight.

The army should actually forget its former negative role as defender and protector of capitalism and switch on to the progressive role of defending and protecting the popular masses.

It will however be a sad affair if the Government will not listen to the people by towing the socialist line because Nigeria had had the terrible and expensive experience with both British and the American systems both of them capitalist. Why don't we try the second system being the socialist system?

Sam Okurus,
Benin City.

Oil

Dear Editor,

With the dwindling price of crude oil on the world market, our current budget is bound to be affected adversely, even though the budget has been pegged on the downward trend of the oil price around 20 Dollars per barrel, the price has now dived to 15 Dollars per barrel and that means a lot of adjustment would have to be made.

In this light, I call on the Federal Military Government to present a supplementary budget or withdraw the 30 per cent Import Levy on imports so as to relieve the poor workers from their present predicament high cost of living. In short, the ordinary worker is dying.

Patrick Peterside,

Enugu.

Budget

I am with full support for Comrade S. O. Z. Ejirofor when he described the 1986 Budget in the February '86 New Horizon as "not in the interest of the working class".

It is an incontrovertible fact that, the current budget is prepared by money-men for their kith and kin. It is only few weeks now when the Bud-

get was out-doored and see the price of bread. The 30 per cent Import Levy is biting hard.

Alao Salami,
Ijebu Ode.

ECOWAS

I refer to Jide Salami's article 'What Have We Achieved in the Ten Years of ECOWAS?' which was carried by the New Horizon of September 1985 and have to express my great disappointment that, "Apart from the poor economic growth performance of most ECOWAS states in the past two decades, it should be noted that eleven of the 16 ECOWAS states are listed among the 37 least developed countries in the world".

This is no wonder, it came to light at the last Lome summit of ECOWAS that the body's fundamental objectives were still an illusion because member states do not show full support and commitment to the community.

Olu Marquis,
Akoka, Lagos.

NLC

After reading the "700 Days of Chiroma's Rule" which appeared in your Magazine Vol. 6 No. 2, I begin to ask myself what has been achieved for the Nigerian workers during these 700 days. Whenever there is any Government action curtailing or disturbing the rights of workers, the NLC protests to Government but the action stays and the workers suffer. What then is the gain of the NLC and workers? Protests, protests and so what?

Gbenga Olumide
Oke Ado, Ibadan.

Your write up on Ali Chiroma's 700 days is an eye opener to those who want the man's head.

With reference to your write-up on the NLC, I wish to point out that Comrade Ali Chiroma, the President is depending too much on the collective leadership. It is true that he has to pursue this policy but he should also remember that workers know Ali Chiroma as President of NLC not 'collective leadership'. He should spit out some fire.

Baba Chiroma
Oshodi Street, Lagos.

American Imperialism

I am with full praises for the All Nigeria Peace and Solidarity Organisation in sending solidarity

message to Comrade Gaddafi on the occasion of America's threats to Libya.

I take this opportunity to condemn the American Cow being ridden by Ronald Reagan. To me, America has no business in the Mediterranean. She must get out fast.

David Bassey
Marian Extension, Calabar.

I always fail to understand what the almighty America is after in the Mediterranean Sea. Why is Reagan mongering war all over the world in this way? To me, what the world needs now is absolute peace and what she does not want is people like Ronald Reagan of the United States of America.

B. D. West,
Akoka.

When will America learn to be at peace with her neighbours? She was defeated in Viet Nam, she was also turned out in Nicaragua. Now she wants to be in the Mediterranean. Let her get out from there. By the way, why is Reagan running away from Gorbachev's peace offer? Reagan should defend his policies for everybody to see whether they are for peace or not.

Sam Okeke,
Port Harcourt.

W.A.I.

It is pathetic to see how officials of the Mushin Local Council supported by soldiers and policemen with guns chase and harass defenceless women and children who sell along the streets of Mushin these days.

Recently, the tormentors were at the apex of their activities when they came to Kelani Street, and seized people's wares, foods with pots and fruits into their trucks and zoomed off.

By the way, why should this law enforcement agents be allowed to carry lethal weapons whenever they are going to have an encounter with defenceless market women and children?

I appeal to the authorities to stop these harrassments because these people are only finding their daily bread through genuine means.

Esther Chuku,
Surulere, Lagos.

Editor's Note,

More reactions, comments to the contents of 'NEW HORIZON' are welcomed. However, such reactions should be brief and should be addressed to the Editor, New Horizon Publications, 7, Omoniyi Street, P. O. Box 2165, Babalosh, Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria.

Letters should bear names, signatures and addresses of the writer,

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CONTENTS

VOL. 6 NO. 3



FROM OUR MAIL BAG P.2

EDITORIAL NOTES P. 4

DAPO FATOGUN IS 60 P. 5

OIL PRICES THREATEN BABANGIDA'S
BUDGET P.6

THE OIC PALAVER P.9

WHY KEEP THE ARMY IDLE? P.10

WHOSE POLITICAL DEBATE? P.12

ANPSO MARKS YEAR OF PEACE P.14

GHANA: "NO MORE WESTERN DEMOCRACY" P.15

"HELP DESTROY APARTHEID" P.20

MANDELA SPEAKS P.21

UNESCO STANDS FOR GLOBAL PEACE P.22

USSR ON THE MOVE P.25

CZECH COMMUNISTS HOLD CONGRESS P. 26

AND THE BULGARIANS TOO P.26

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