

# PERESTROIKA:

# NEW HORIZON

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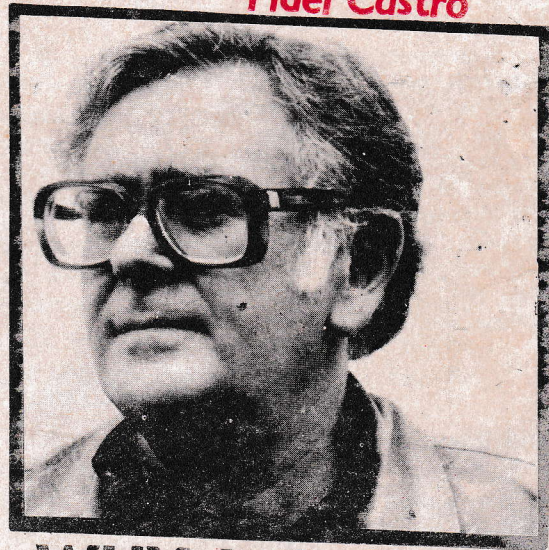
# NLC TODAY

- \* What critics say
- \* Pascal Bafyau replies his critics
- \* The white-paper dilemma



## WHY CUBA CHECKS OUT!

—Fidel Castro



## WHY WE CHEER GORBACHEV

— Joe Slovo

# World Marxist Review

PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM

1108

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**FROM OUR MAILBAG****Bravo! New Horizon**

Dear Editor,

KINDLY permit me to join the teeming crowd of NEW HORIZON's readers' club all over the country to commend your courageous stand during the trial of Chief Gani Fawehinmi at the Transition to Civil Rule Tribunal.

You deserve more commendation for being one and the only magazine to stand against all odds to interview and published all facts with which the "Senior Advocate of Masses" exposed some of the atrocities committed by General Babangida's one-man AI RC and his juntas ruling elites.

The immeasurable speed with which the Chief's interview had helped to educate the entire Nigerian populace cannot be described because it had actually proved that "the worst civilian administration is far better than the best military administration."

For instance, there had always been some hidden facts between the military and civilians which had never been thrown into public debate and that is what one can rightly termed as "judgment in a haste."

It is very much doubtful if all civilians fully understand the essence of high-morale to the military. It is the high-morale in the military that propels military administration to tip civilians into mine-fields without a wink of recognising dangers entailed.

Therefore if you defiate the morale of a soldier, then you have drained him of his life, with which you can grab initiative from him. In this case, to the military administrations, high-morales are the

magical weapons for implementation of all draconian decrees with which they rule.

Civilians would now appreciate the military need for high-morale and the military force to remove obstacles, such as ones Chief Gani Fawehinmi had to face with Babangida's military juntas, which had to force IBB to rally round his armed forces for pep-talks whenever there is severe attack from opposing forces.

Else, immediately after 1987 religious disturbances at Kafanchan, IBB was forced to term the religious disturbances as "civilian coup" which served the President's desire to steer the military in high morale hence military might have lost their power and authority.

With the same vein, the President tried to conjure military morale and training when the May/June anti-SAP riot of 1989 emerged. It was at the inauguration of the Armed Forces Consultative Assembly, the President set into motion to prove that, the military as a group, must never allow itself to be disgraced out of power by civilians.

Also speaking at the Chief of Army Staff Conference on January 22, 1990, the President advised the military not to accept any guilt for frequent intrusion into the nation's politics and the consequent interruption of the growth of the country's democracy, where the President in his usual characteristic manner made his case for military monopoly of power unassailable. The twist in the President's speech arise from the fact that his military morale booster sounded like the post civil war

military self-congratulation. The military won the war of unity, the President exclaimed, but he conveniently forgot to mention that the military started the war initially.

Finally, it must be critically analysed whether civilian democratic foundation for Third Republic, whereby the two-party set-up by Babangida's dictatorship which had never been in existence in any part of the world, would be given enough time to be mastered or would they be kicked-out by "barrel of guns" at the first slip as it was done in the case of Second Republic "presidential system?" Because the President's recent pronouncement as regards why military should be applauded for saving this country, calls for a thorough enquiry, so as to rest the case once and for all, i.e., whether indeed the military politicians have been a blessing or a curse to this country.

It is infact through such inquiry that we shall be able to know, whether it is indeed true that, the second republic presidential system by Shagari's civilian administration was actually solely responsible for the collapse of our economy or previous military administrations were also responsible.

Until we have right to probe military regimes and until the figures are left open to the entire masses, the military cannot go about assaulting civilian administrations, because it may turn-out that they have caused the ruined of the economy in the first instance.

G.A. TIAMIYU  
Ilorin

**Socialism will triumph**

Dear Editor,

I must commend you on the last edition of your magazine, on the happenings in Eastern Europe. The explanations given by the Eastern Diplomats in the said edition are very educative.

A keen observer of contemporary events would but be appalled by the happenings in the Soviet bloc popularly referred to as Eastern Europe.

The purpose of the reforms is to restructure the party mechanism with a view to paving way for greater (people's) participation within the party. It is not intended to abrogate socialism.

The youths having been 'indoctrined' by their counterparts in the Western

world, itch for greater freedoms especially freedom of expression and movement, that is, travelling outside their geo-political enclaves. The Party structure is so fixed and rooted in all spheres of the polity that the communist party dictates one's choice of leisure.

Definitely, this deserves some surgical reforms, if such reforms take another form of revolution, then it is because revolution is a continuous process.

A counter-revolution to reform socialism is expectedly accepted but surely no one would listen to a reactionary slogan within the communist world.

Hence in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, etc. you hear of democratic socialism, which means socialism has come to stay

If communism dies, what then happens to 40 to 70-year old tradition of free education, free health, free employment for all, subsidized food items, massive housing scheme, eradication of social cum economic ills, wit, exploitation of man by man, juvenile delinquency, bribery and corruption, embezzlement/robbery.

Communism cannot pave way for capitalism again from its present monopoly of power to democratic socialism.

Within the next ten years, we shall all see vividly what is happening to communist international.

ALUTA CONTINUA.

FRED ADEBANJO (Ho Chi Minh)  
NIJ, Lagos.



# NEW HORIZON

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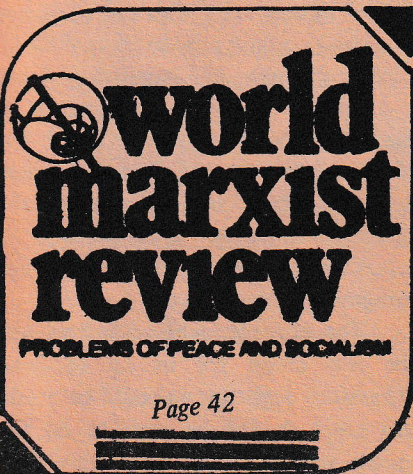
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PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM  
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## INTRO

### COMMUNISM: DECLINE OR REVIVAL?

ALMOST 73 years ago, the philosophical concept of ending exploitation of man by man by imposition of dictatorship of the exploited over the exploiter was achieved in Russian.

According to the American journalist John Reed that deed shook the world. The Bolshevik Revolution led by Lenin has become one of the undying landmarks of this century. Between 1945 and 1948 many other countries embraced socialism albeit in the wake of victorious Red Army. But it must be borne in mind that such dates as 1918, 1919, 1923, etc. saw successful communist revolutions in Eastern and Central Europe. These revolutions were crushed by powerful capitalist interventions.

The new social system (socialism), it cannot be denied, has tremendously brought gains to countries where it has been practised. However, it is self-evident that many political blunders have been recorded and the old method of over centralised democracy was stifling. It created a yawning gap between the party and the people. This method no longer fits today's realities. Therefore it must be jettisoned.

However, this does not mean the death of socialism. Socialism is still the heart of a heartless and exploitative society, it is the hope of the oppressed and the carressing hands and soothing voice extended to the poor.

We have given much space in this edition to two third world communist leaders: President Fidel Castro of Cuba and Joe Slovo, General Secretary of the South African Communist Party to suggest way forward to new and ideal socialist construction.

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*Hurrah!*  
**NAMIBIA**



Comrade Sam Nujoma  
President, Namibia

**IS FREE**

Handwritten text on a piece of tape or paper at the bottom right corner, possibly including the name 'Nujoma'.