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**The People of this Land have suffered enough
THEIR CHAINS MUST FALL !**

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NLC: A FIRM HAND-SHAKE

The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) deserves a great applause for its response to the Babangida Government's White Paper on the recommendations of the Political Bureau. To particularise, the Bureau has recommended socialism, two parties, and the freedom of trade unions to finance a workers' party with their funds.

The government turned its back on socialism, rejected the freedom of trade unions to fund a workers' party, but accepted the two-party idea.

Rebutting the government, the NLC condemned its rejection of socialism. The labour organisation reaffirmed the faith in socialism which it made known originally in its memorandum to the political bureau. It also condemned the government's rejection of the right of trade unions to subscribe funds to a workers' party.

On the two-party question, the NLC held on to its basic stand that the freedom of association of Nigerians be not interfered with and that, therefore, the number of parties be not artificially limited.

If the government finds it undesirable or impossible to work towards socialism between now and 1992, then it has no right to impose on this country a so-called Structural Adjustment Programme sponsored by imperialists and their comprador friends in big business and the bureaucracy, which cart the working people into hell to build bigger mansions in heaven for millionaires.

But it is useless arguing with the government. From the word 'go' its course was clear: the capitalist course. It is up to those who thought that the government pursued capitalist policies 'in error', "in ignorance" or because it was 'ill-advised' to revise their views. The scale should now fall off their eyes.

One thing is clear. The political bureau did not recommend socialism as a matter of its own preference. If one takes the trouble to listen to the type of country that ordinary Nigerians say they would want to have, it will become obvious that the sum total of what they want can only be accomplished by socialist development. There is absolutely no doubt on that score.

The political bureau could not help reflecting the reality on the ground regarding majority aspirations. However, these aspirations can be translated into reality by no group other than those who suffer from exploitation, privation, spite, and indignity, namely the working people. Socialism is built by workers and their progressive allies among the intelligentsia, the peasantry and petty-bourgeois producers who abandon the ideology of the bourgeoisie. Socialism cannot be built by anyone for workers.

Even if a radical section of the armed forces take the plunge to lead a country towards socialism, the advance is bound to falter sooner or later unless the working class is educated and organised to take over the lead. After all, socialism expresses the self-liberating activity of the working people themselves. A socialist regime is not simply a bureaucracy running an economy or nationalised industries 'for the people.'