PRINCIPAL IMPLEMENTS OF IMPERIALIST DOMINATION AND AGGRESSION

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NATO and the Warsaw Treaty are ideal instruments for the realization of the aggressive policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. With the imperialist, counter-revolutionary and neo-colonialist interests they have, the members of these blocs rally around their leadership and assist them in the co-ordination of the activity in foreign policy.


In these conditions, along with an unrestrained deceptive propaganda, both American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism are more and more openly and strongly resorting to all kind of threats, blackmail and pressure, through military intervention and invasion of other countries, as happened with Afghanistan which was occupied by the Soviet social-imperialists, through blatant aggressive actions, as was the case of the American attack on Iran, or through pitting one state against the other in order to cause tension in their relations, to push them into conflicts with one another, which may eventually end in local wars, from which the superpowers ensure their part of profit.

The main role in this war-mongering activity is played by the aggressive blocs of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty.

1.

NATO for American imperialism and the Warsaw Treaty for Soviet social-imperialism are the principal buttresses on which they prop up their whole hegemony-seeking and expansionist policy. Hence the two superpowers make constant efforts to strengthen and consolidate these blocs and to preserve their domination and control over them.

Although NATO and the Warsaw Treaty were set up for distinctly opposite aims, today these two alliances are as much alike as two drops of water.

The setting up of the political and military alliance of NATO was the crowning of the efforts of American imperialism to put Western Europe under its military control. Through this organization it carries out its policy of imperialist domination, aggression and war. On its part, the Warsaw Treaty was set up as a necessary defensive counterweight of the East-European countries of the former socialist camp, as response to the real threat coming from American imperialism and its aggressive NATO bloc. However, the Khrushchevite revisionists, following their revisionist line which was crystallized at the 20th Congress of the CPSU, within less than one year from the creation of the Warsaw Treaty, set
and control over the North Atlantic alliance, to bind it permanently to its own policy. And this for the reason that, as is known, contradictions and frictions are natural among the members of inter-imperialist alliances. In the present period these inter-imperialist frictions, the tendency of one partner to gain pre-eminence over the others, have become even more acute. Some European members of the NATO alliance are no longer in positions of complete inferiority towards the United States of America, as was the situation in the period 1945-1950. The ratio of forces among these countries has changed, with the consequence that the struggle for supremacy over each other has flared up from time to time. In spite of all the shifts and changes American imperialism continues to retain the commanding position in NATO. In no case, no matter how sharp the inter-imperialist contradictions inside this alliance, even when its members have risen openly against the American dictate, the United States of America has let go the reins of control and domination over NATO.

This, of course, does not mean that American imperialism has had to face unimportant problems. Apart from the French in the second half of the sixties, the United States has also been seriously challenged by its other NATO partners on different occasions. American prestige was greatly shaken in the eyes of its allies as a result of the open failure of the American aggression against Iran in the middle of the past year, under the pretext of "liberating the hostages". That Washington kept the plan of this attack 'secret' from its allies was considered an expression of its mistrust and insecurity about the getting the unreserved approval of and support for this aggression on the part of its allies, even if the latter have not failed to express their hostility towards the Iranian revolution and people.

The 1970's had a pack of fresh difficulties in store for the capitalist world. In these years the economic, political, military, financial and cultural crisis of this world broke out, extended and deepened in all directions, in proportions never seen before, involving all the structures and superstructures of the capitalist countries and creating fresh tensions. In these conditions the inter-imperialist scrambles found their expression also in the relations of the United States of America with the other countries and among them, the countries of the European Common Market, deeply affecting the American-West-European relationship in NATO. In these conditions, in April 1973 Washington proclaimed a "New Atlantic Charter", whereby it intended to break all opposition to its domination in Europe on the part of its European partners and to further strengthen its grip on NATO. After a year of wrangle, which, in the long run, forced ex-President Nixon to threaten that unless American dictate was accepted, the United States "would not fulfil its commitments to the security of the European countries", the European members of NATO submitted to American supremacy against one "concession" on Washington's part: to change the name of the document, which was called the "Atlantic Declaration", thus avoiding only formally the juridical implications of a "charter". The United States of America achieved its aim. This declaration, which was a reconfirmation of the old American policy, is intended at strengthening and preserving American dictate and hegemony in the political situation created in Europe and in the world as a result of the constant deepening of the world crisis of capitalism. On its part, the United States not only secured the further military and political integration of NATO into the US policy, but also managed to achieve even blinder obedience to American dicta.

American imperialism keeps NATO under its heel militarily as well. For this purpose it makes the utmost of its right to maintain US armed forces in the West-European countries and reinforce them whenever the need arises, and to control all NATO organs and sections through American officers. The American officers in the structures of this alliance are chosen from among the best and most qualified specialists, military strategists and politicians. Another fact about the American military supremacy in NATO is the existence in most West-European countries of numerous American military bases, in which a great number of troops and powerful arsenals of strategic and conventional weapons are stationed. The American bases in Spain, which Washington tries to make the 16th member of NATO, serve the same purpose.

On their part, the Soviets have a
firm grip on the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty. The dominant positions of the Kremlin in this alliance have grown stronger. Comrade Enver Hoxha says: «The Soviet Khrushchevites have replaced Marxist-Leninist trust and friendship with the domination of the great 'socialist' state to create the 'socialist family', the 'socialist community', in which today the law is made by the iron hand of Brezhnev and the Soviet marshals who wave the stick of the Warsaw Treaty over the head of any 'prodigal son' who wants to break away from the family.» (Enver Hoxha, «The Khrushchevites» (Memoirs), pp. 208-309, Alb. ed.)

For it to arrive at this point the Soviet social-imperialist state had to completely reduce the Warsaw Treaty into the service of its aggressive policy of domination, which is aimed at ensuring spheres of influence and world hegemony. Hence, the functions of this alliance, despite the attempts of the Soviet revisionist propaganda and that of the other member countries of the Warsaw Treaty to present it as a defensive alliance, are quite identical with those which characterize NATO and the other aggressive military blocs imperialism has set up all over the world.

The initially defensive function of the Warsaw Treaty changed contents rapidly and totally. Today the Warsaw Treaty is a tool in the hands of the Soviets to defend their interests and domination over Eastern Europe, this was fully confirmed in the aggression against Czechoslovakia in August 1968, when the troops of the Soviet Union and some of its allies occupied this country militarily. A situation similar to that of Czechoslovakia has been created in and around Poland which is badly shaken by a political and economic crisis. Faced with the danger of a «break-away», as the various news agencies report, the Soviet Union has massed large forces on the territories bordering on Poland. The Soviet troops stationed in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia have been put on alert. Likewise, in order to blackmail Poland into submission, military exercises of the Warsaw Treaty forces are being carried out inside the Polish territory and along the German-Polish border, the Soviet troops stationed in Poland are on a state of alert and several high level meetings of the Warsaw Treaty have been held, at which Poland has been threatened even with open armed intervention.

On the other hand, the Warsaw Treaty plays an alternate role, that of serving as the buttress of the Soviet policy of aggression and occupation of other countries, both in Europe and outside it. It is a fact that all the Soviet allies in the Warsaw Treaty backed the open fascist invasion of Afghanistan, as they have constantly supported the Soviet hegemony-seeking policy in the Middle East, in the Persian Gulf, in Africa, Asia, etc.

The Soviet Union secures its supremacy in the Warsaw Treaty utilizing the different structures of its organization which, favourable as it is to Soviet interests, creates great possibilities for the deepening of the political and military integration of the vassal countries into the Soviet empire. Thus, the Consultative Political Committee - the supreme organ of the Warsaw Treaty, is consultative only in name, while in fact it operates as a supranational organ in the service of Soviet social-imperialism. Through this body the Brezhnev clique not only controls the policy and activity the other member countries of this Treaty carry out in the international arena, but also imposes its policy, even the tactics they must employ on them. On the other hand, all the political organs and military commands of the Treaty depend on this Committee and take orders from it. In November 1970, the Soviet social-imperialists set up another organisation in the framework of the Warsaw Treaty - the Committee of Foreign Ministers, as an organ of the Consultative Political Committee for the co-ordination of the practical activities and the outlining of the directions of the policy of the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty with that of the Soviet Union.

The Warsaw Treaty is at any time at the disposal of Moscow. The Soviet generals, who are at the head of all commanding posts, are all-powerful in it. With this the Soviet Union has put the entire system of organization of this alliance in the service of its aims.

The military integration the Soviet social-imperialists imposed on their relations with their partners, long ago, along with the economic integration into the Comecon, has transformed these countries politically, economically and militarily, into real appendages of the Soviet empire. The member countries of this Treaty have put under its «joint command» large contingents of troops which, in fact, are under the orders of the Soviet high commanders in the Treaty and can be set in motion at any time by the Soviet social-imperialists. In the context of the «unification of armaments» the Soviet Union has also reduced its allies to their complete dependence on Soviet armaments and military equipment. And it tries to cover up all these relations of dictate and submission under the cloak of «cooperation», «standardization of armaments», «specialization», etc.

But in spite of anything the Soviet social-imperialists do and say, in spite of the fact that they make the law in the Warsaw Treaty, nothing can save this political and military alliance from being eroded from within by the numerous contradictions. Differences and quarrels are endemic in the revisionist clan. Sometimes they appear more acute, sometimes less so, they may even calm down for a while, but they never can be solved. Differences have not been infrequent amongst the Warsaw Treaty members, especially over the rights of its members. They arise as opposition to the Soviet social-imperialists' control of all the key posts while the others have been left with only a shadow of competences. Differences and contradictions have also arisen over the level of military expenditure, the contribution which, under this Treaty, Moscow has imposed on its vassals for maintaining the Soviet occupation troops stationed in their countries, etc. In order to placate the anger of its partners the Soviet Union not only uses its propaganda machine and «internationalist» slogans, but, whenever the need arises, resorts to economic pressure and open threats which are conveyed by the Soviet chiefs during their «friendly visits» to the capitals of the Warsaw Treaty member countries. The Soviet Union resorts to political and military blackmail and
threat, before which the revisionist chiefs of the member countries are reduced into servile obedience, in mortal fear lest they lose the posts in which the Soviet boss has raised them.

As the facts show, the inter-imperialist contradictions are many and crop up in all aspects of international relations and at all times. They cause alliances to be concluded and broken, stir up rivalries and, when exacerbated to the extreme, may even lead to war. However, the contradictions arising now and then amongst the NATO members and those of the Warsaw Treaty have not yet reached a critical degree and come above the alliance. Hence, as present as in the past, they have not prevented the superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union from lording over in these alliances, exercising their complete control over their partners and realizing their sinister criminal plans. NATO and the Warsaw Treaty have always been the watchdogs of American or Soviet interests in their respective groupings.

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Time has fully vindicated the correctness of the thesis of the Party of Labour of Albania that the aggressive military alliances of the two superpowers are the biggest striking force against the revolution and the liberation wars of the peoples, against their freedom and sovereignty. At present, the allies of each superpower in the respective aggressive blocs have lined up behind their leaders and are caught up in the fierce inter-imperialist rivalry going on everywhere, in the strategically important area of the Persian Gulf, in Africa, in the Middle East, in Europe, Asia and elsewhere. This clearly shows that both NATO and the Warsaw Treaty have been and remain organs in the service of the predatory neo-colonialist interests of Washington and Moscow.

Recently the superpowers and the military blocs they lead are more and more openly resorting to pressure on and threats against the other peoples and countries. Along with the frequent statements of American high officials, including those of the Reagan team who do not hesitate to say that the American president will "take proper action in due time" against Iran, the NATO chiefs, too, are talking about the "need" for extending the activity of this bloc to the Gulf area. The possibility of entering into military alliances with the reactionary regimes of this area, like that of Saudi Arabia, about stepping up the pressure on Iran, etc., American actions and threats are also accompanied by "joint actions" of the NATO members in the area of the Persian Gulf. At present, 35 warships of the West-European NATO members have been added to the 34 American warships in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

In the meantime, while waving the olive branch to the Iranian people, Soviet social-imperialism, in constant rivalry with American imperialism, has dispatched to the waters of this area 38 warships which stand by ready to intervene, along with the Soviet divisions stationed on the regions bordering on Iran and Afghanistan.

However, the interests of the military blocs and, more particularly, those of their leaders are more complicated and clash more fiercely in Europe. The two superpowers, bent on maintaining and improving their positions in their respective parts of Europe, under the control of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, have assembled unprecedented amounts of strategic weapons, especially nuclear missiles. Military expenditure on maintaining these aggressive blocs and on arming them have already reached astronomical figures. Altogether the United States and the Soviet Union spend a total of about 400 billion dollars for military purposes each year. In order to cope with the unrestrained armaments race they demand from their allies in the respective blocs to increase the military expenditure by no less than 3 per cent each year. The endless and successive manoeuvres of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty in Europe or along its shores are not routine exercises of a "defensive" character, as the bourgeois or revisionist propaganda tries to present them. They are an expression of their all-round preparation for war, which characterizes their unrestrained aggressiveness.

The partial or general manoeuvres of these military alliances envelop large territories and involve the participation of air, land and sea forces. They carry out large-scale landings, offensive actions, imaginary occupation of coastal areas, of lowlands or mountain regions. Through them the aggressive forces of the two blocs train for aggressive actions against different countries, hence no country or people in Europe is safe from the danger of a military aggression. The military exercises also serve the two superpowers as a pretext to increase their troops stationed in the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty. In the military exercises carried out by NATO in Central Europe, the American imperialists transported complete military units from the American territory to their West-European bases, while the Soviet social-imperialists, among other things, have built a huge ferry-boat system which links the Soviet Union over the Black Sea with Bulgaria, and through which they can shift complete tank or motorized units from the Soviet Union to Bulgaria, if necessary.

All this reminds us of Stalin's thesis to the effect that "The bourgeois states are arming and rearming with a vengeance… not for talks, but for war." (J.V.Stalin, Works, vol. 12, pp. 242-243, Alm.Ed.) That is why the revolutionary and progressive forces and peoples are required to raise and sharpen their vigilance, step up and strengthen their activities to foil the imperialist plans for war.

The revolutionary forces and the true Marxist-Leninist parties are confronted with the task of creating among the working masses deep convictions about the hubbub raised by the bourgeois-revisionist propaganda on the "efforts" of the superpowers and the other imperialist states comprised in their political and military blocs for the "lowering of tension in the world", for the "reduction of troops and armaments in Europe", etc as well as the real threat they pose. Talks between the superpowers or the blocs they lead, in reality, are intended to ensure the military superiority of one bloc over the other. And it could not be otherwise. American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism did not set up these blocs in order to weaken or break them up now. On the contrary, they keep them afoot and strengthen them ceaselessly, equip them with most modern armaments and prepare them for war.
and aggression. The question is that both American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, aware of the ever rising indignation of the peoples and, among them, those of their European allies, who are increasingly feeling the heavy burden of the armaments race and sensing the threat of war, are labouring by means of the SALT talks in Vienna or the so-called «Conference of European Security», etc. to create the impression as if they are doing something to «avoid» the danger of a confrontation and to «lower» the tension and increase the «security» on the European continent and in the world.

With the great development of the military technology and the means of transport of military forces and equipment today, any «reduction» of forces and armaments, even if both sides reach a compromise, cannot be but a bluff. And this not only because the arsenals of the two aggressive blocs are immense, but also because the United States of America and the Soviet Union can quite easily move the small contingents they may withdraw from Central Europe (as only this European area is the object of all the bargain) to other regions of Europe, to countries excluded from all «obligations». Tomorrow, if the need arises, with the means at their disposal, they can re-establish those forces to the present-day level and increase them within a very short time.

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As is seen, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty are ideal instruments for the realization of the aggressive policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. With the imperialist, counter-revolutionary and neo-colonialist interests they have, the members of these blocs rally around their leadership and assist them in the coordination of the activity in foreign policy. Therefore, the struggle which is being waged all over the world by the proletariat and the peoples is directed against the two superpowers and the aggressive blocs under their thumb. The reality has many facts to refute the sermons of the Chinese revisionists who, in their efforts to further their pragmatic policy, have come out openly in defence of NATO and American imperialism and declare Soviet social-imperialism and the Warsaw Treaty to be their sole enemy.

The reality shows with great clarity that the United States of America and the Soviet Union devote particular attention to NATO and the Warsaw Treaty. This proves what Comrade Enver Hoxha has said that «Now, as in the past, the main pillars, on which all their hegemonic and expansionist superpower policy is based and carried out, the principal shields protecting their imperialist systems, the fundamental weapons for their rivalry and war preparations, are NATO and the Warsaw Treaty.» (Enver Hoxha, Report to the 7th Congress of the PLA, pp.198-199, Alb. ed.) Hence, the conclusion emerges that the struggle against the imperialist superpowers is indivisible from the ceaseless struggle on all the fronts against the political and military alliances of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, against the bourgeois-revisionist demagogy which tries to cover up the reactionary, counter-revolutionary and aggressive activity of these blocs.

The Party of Labour of Albania, the Government of the PSR of Albania and the entire Albanian people fight resolutely against the hegemonic, expansionist policy of the United States of America, the Soviet Union and their tools of war, fully convinced that this is the right road, the revolutionary road, which ensures freedom and independence, defends the Homeland and guarantees the construction of socialism, the internationalist road which backs up and defends the struggle of the proletariat and the peoples for national and social emancipation.