THE YUGOSLAVS MAKE FRESH CONCESSIONS TO THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS

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The Balkans have always occupied a pet place in the dreams and ambitions of the Russian czars. This is also true about their successors — Khrushchev, Brezhnev and their ilk yesterday, Andropov and Tikhonov and their ilk today. The recent visit of the Soviet Premier in Yugoslavia is clear evidence of this.

Tikhonov visited Yugoslavia at the time of the complete economic bankruptcy, the utter ideological and political chaos, and the clamorous defeat of Titoite Yugoslavia. The facts, which are known, show that the Yugoslav economy has already reached the verge of bankruptcy. The country has fallen prey to anarchy and stagnation of production and galloping inflation, with a typical capitalist market on which the laws are made by the local entrepreneurs, the multi-national monopolies and foreign speculators, with continuous price rises, an unemployment which has affected one million people and which, according to reports in the local press, has already become the number-one problem and is described as the “ulcer” of the country, with ration cards enforced as a result of insuperable difficulties in the supply of the population and above all, a 20 billion dollar indebtedness to the foreign creditors. So, Yugoslavia is deep in the economic and financial crisis that has swept the whole capitalist-revisionist world — a crisis which manifests itself strongly in other fields of the life of the country as well.

The present crisis in Yugoslavia is the result of the system of Titoite self-administration, which in the 60's and 70's was presented as a superior system that would ensure the rapid industrial development of the country and create the paradise for the Yugoslav working people. Soon, however, it brought about economic and political bankruptcy and the submission of Yugoslavia to world capital and, as the Titoites themselves were compelled to admit at the meeting of the CC of the LC of Yugoslavia convened especially for ideological and theoretical questions, “has openly raised the question whether what the LCY offers is only a great honx.”

Our Party has long ago foreseen the present chaotic situation in which “self-administrative” revisionist Yugoslavia has landed today. In his book “Yugoslav 'Self-administration‘ — a Capitalist Theory and Practice”, Comrade Enver Hoxha analyses the typical capitalist phenomena that manifest themselves in Yugoslavia and points out that “the entire country is in the grip of a never ending crisis”. At the 8th Congress of the Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha again said that “Titoite Yugoslavia has entered a grave and general crisis of its structures and superstructures, an economic, political and moral crisis.”

Such a situation in Yugoslavia has not come as a surprise to the superpowers — the United States of America
and the Soviet Union, which have for scores of years kept alive this system for their own hegemonic ends. Yugoslavia has lived on credits from either side. In conformity with this situation, it has pursued a double-faced tightrope policy, making concessions sometimes to the one and sometimes to the other superpower, so as to show either of them that, unless they pour in billions into the country, it would defect to the other. The Yugoslav leadership has raised into a diplomatic art this tightrope balancing between the two imperialist superpowers. But the superpowers knew this, too, and they used the "whims" of the Yugoslavs to further their own hegemonic plans.

Seeing that Yugoslavia had reached the verge of disaster, American imperialism and world capitalism hastened to the aid of Yugoslavia. At the request of the USA, 15 Western countries gave Yugoslavia 1.3 billion dollars more. Soviet social-imperialism, in turn, sent Tikhonov with a blank cheque to Yugoslavia. The fact is that following the aid by Western banks and the visit of the Soviet Premier to Belgrade, the humour of the Yugoslav leaders has improved a little. Speaking of the dramatic situation in his country some time before, the chief of the revisionist party of Yugoslavia, Mitya Ribičić, ponted out that this situation threatens to lead Yugoslavia towards serious political unrest, strikes and other forms of expression of discontent, and "a grave political crisis." Now, after this breath of fresh air, hopes have revived. However, Yugoslavia's lungs are far gone, they have lost all vital function. There are no medicines, only palliatives, for them.

The men in the Kremlin are well informed about the situation in Yugoslavia. When he went there, Tikhonov knew its grave political, ideological and economic crisis, the exacerbation to the limit of its international contradictions. Obviously, his visit there was not made for nothing, nor was it intended as a demonstration of brotherly pan-Slavic feelings. The Yugoslavs had their share of profit, but the Soviets, too, did not get away without taking some advantage. Only the naive can imagine that Tikhonov had no success in Yugoslavia and that the Yugoslavs made no concessions to the Soviets. After Tikhonov's visit, the Soviet market was opened to products manufactured in Yugoslav factories and financed with American dollars — products which do not sell in the West. However, neither the American imperialists nor the Soviet social-imperialists are as liberal as to give anything to Yugoslavia for nothing.

After Tikhonov's departure from Belgrade, the Yugoslav leaders are trying to make people believe that their policy is inclined more towards the West than towards the East. They seek to give this delusion as wide circulation as possible after the concessions they have made to the Soviets. And they do this in order to cover up the plots they prepare and the intrigues they hatch up together with the Soviet social-imperialists. All this shows that, far from being non-aligned, as the Titoites say, Yugoslavia is aligning itself and collaborating more and more closely with American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

Tikhonov's visit to Belgrade and the agreements he concluded with the Yugoslavs open for the Soviet Union a broad field of new possibilities of infiltrating into Yugoslavia. They further strengthen the positions of Soviet social-imperialism in the economy and army of Yugoslavia. This situation is bound to have its repercussions. It jeopardizes peace in Europe and in the world, and constitutes a threat not only to socialist Albania but also to the really independent and non-aligned countries, such as the democratic republics of Austria and Switzerland. The Yugoslav leaders try to keep these plans and plots secret from world public opinion, as Mitya Ribičić did in his speech at Prishtina, in which he cast aspersions and poured his venom on socialist Albania.

In recent times the Yugoslavs are speaking loudly, in particular, about self-reliance. However, their credits from American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism prove the opposite. What is true is
that the peoples of Yugoslavia will suffer more and will be oppressed more ruthlessly if this course is followed. Self-reliance, in the Titoite sense, means that the working masses will have to tighten their belts more for the state to be able to pay back its huge credits. This is the destiny the system of self-administration has in store for them.