

The Future as seen after 25 Years of Parliamentary Struggle

After 25 years in Parliament, I view the future with great confidence. This does not mean that the path ahead is not fraught with many dangers and difficulties.

This confidence is based on past experience and a scientific analysis of the future.

The past 25 years have demonstrated that many things, including dress reforms, which had been advocated and pioneered by the PPP and me, have now come to fruition.

At the international level, scientific socialism which ^{was} inscribed on our banner from the very beginning is winning out. The balance of forces has shifted, and will continue to shift, in favour of socialism. Capitalism-imperialism has grown relatively weaker.

Attempts made since 1947 by the United States with the Truman doctrine and cold-war practices -- the use of force and the threat of force -- over the past two decades to "contain communism" have failed. It has been forced to come to terms with the world socialist system which has grown into a powerful bastion economically, militarily, ideologically and politically.

Richard Nixon's visit to China and the Soviet Union is symptomatic of this failure. As Vice-President, he was a cold-warrior and a rabid anti-communist witch-hunter; as President, he accepts, albeit reluctantly, the policy of peaceful co-existence, detente and disarmament long ago championed by the Soviet Union.

In 1960, the USA pressured five of the then six Latin American countries which had diplomatic relations with Cuba to break ties. But in 1972, Chile, Peru, Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica established diplomatic relations with Cuba, and other Latin American states voted in the OAS for an end to the US blockade. It is only a matter of time before the USA will be forced to abandon this suicidal policy as she was forced to do in the case of the Soviet Union and China.

With detente and peaceful competition, the world socialist system will move ahead. Disarmament will permit accelerated rate of growth. Money spent for defense will be diverted to production, to increasing living standards (thus augmenting the demonstration effect of the superiority of socialism) and to giving greater moral and material support to "third-world" countries which are struggling against imperialism.

Meanwhile, the contradictions in the imperialist camp will be intensified. The struggle between the imperialist powers, and between the capitalist monopolies for spheres of influence, will sharpen. Industrial and commercial competition will grow more intense, and the financial and currency war will spread.

Cybernetics and automation (the scientific and technological revolution) in the capitalist states are adding to the ranks of the unemployed. This in turn is sharpening the class struggle between the capitalist class and the working class.

At the political level, this struggle will tend towards a movement away from bourgeois-liberal democracy. This has been seen in Greece and even in Britain, where the capitalist ruling class is making inroads into rights and privileges.

long enjoyed by the working class.

Capitalism will not, however, permit the crisis of "over-production" to engulf it. It will export it to the "third-world" in the form of sophisticated weapons for push-button electronic warfare. Those client states who are prepared to perpetuate colonial and neo-colonial rule in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean will be propped up with weapons in keeping with the new "vietnamisation" policy.

Because the Vietnam war, so costly in men and money, had radicalised US politics, the ruling class in America prefers to use computerized electronic warfare, and let others become the cannon fodder. Under the "vietnamisation" policy, Asians must kill Asians, Africans must kill Africans and Latin Americans must kill Latin Americans.

In keeping with this policy, the South Atlantic Pact, embracing South Africa, Rhodesia, Portugal, Brazil and the U.S.A. has been set up to "contain" national liberation in Africa.

In Latin America, the so-called Inter-American Peace Force was established with Brazil, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Haiti, the most hated dictatorships.

Now that direct intervention is no longer acceptable to world public opinion, indirect intervention is proposed through puppet troops. When US troops withdrew from the Dominican Republic after the massive intervention in 1965, Brazilian troops replaced them.

But imperialism will not rely only on indirect intervention. It will also resort to new devices.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, when political independence for colonial territories became inevitable, the imperialists created federations to "contain" radical national liberation movements. So today, there is the new attempt at a creation of a West Indian political union.

Such a union with a neo-colonial ruling elite will seek to contain revolutionary territorial movements. And if necessary, a West Indian army and police force will be used to quell revolutionary upheavals and thus free the imperialists from the embarrassment of intervening with either their own troops and/or the troops of their client states.

At the economic level, new planning strategies will be pushed to strengthen foreign domination. Now that the "Puerto Rican" model of economic planning has failed, the imperialists are advocating the so-called "partnership." Nationals and even governments are to become partners with imperialism while the multinational corporations, through import substitution and regional integration (Latin American Free Trade Association, Central American Common Market, Caribbean Free Trade Area) rule the roost and extract super-profits.

This reformist strategy, now being implemented in Guyana and the Commonwealth Caribbean, has actually failed to solve basic problems in Latin America. And it will fail here too.

Already, we see in Guyana rising expenditure on a ruling bureaucratic-capitalist elite and on debt repayments. Debt charges have jumped from \$5 million in 1960 to \$35 million in 1972, from 12 per cent to 21 per cent of the current budget.

This rising expenditure has been met at the expense of the people by taxation and cuts in social services.

Increasing unemployment and high cost of living have led to grave dissatisfaction. The government's answer at the electoral level has been fraud, and at the administrative level, coercion.

But this is no solution. As the coercive apparatus (army, police, prisons, etc) grows, and as debt charges rise in time, particularly at the conclusion of 5-year and 10-year moratorium (grace period) on loans, the burden on the people will increase. And with this will develop more dissatisfaction and a vicious circle.

Autocratic rule will be coupled with an intensification of demagogy and ideological warfare at the national and international level, especially since imperialism can neither wipe out the socialist world nor win even a "limited" war (witness its debacle in Vietnam). False ideas -- the "convergence" and "two-super powers" theories, "cooperative socialism", etc. will be spread deliberately to sow confusion to divide the anti-imperialist forces, to withdraw people from struggle and to separate them from their natural allies, the socialist world (expenditure on information in Guyana has jumped from \$346,000 in 1965 to \$2.9 million in 1972. And this does not include cost of propaganda by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).