



tricontinental scene



GUINEA:

PEOPLE'S VICTORY



IN its short independent history, the Republic of Guinea, with an area of 245 857 km² and some 3 900 000 inhabitants, has been the object of numerous attacks by the imperialist and colonialist powers and the reactionary bourgeois nucleus within the country.

Late last November 23, the armed forces, militia and the people of Guinea smashed the last remnants of the mercenary invaders trained and equipped by Portugal with the support of NATO and the evident complicity of the United States, its chief economic source. Forty hours was sufficient to liquidate the counterrevolutionary attempt initiated in the early morning hours of the 22nd.

The criminal operation whose objective was to isolate the capital and then occupy the entire country — according to President Sékou Touré's statement in a message to the nation — had the support of a war fleet that transported the 400 mercenaries to the Guinea coast where they disembarked. A submarine, whose presence was confirmed and denounced, joined the pirates from Portugal.

The formidable organization and fighting spirit of the Guinean Government and people defeated the Portuguese maneuver in a few hours. When the voices of solidarity of the independent and progressive nations joined in denouncing the vile aggression, the battle was practically over. But this solidarity nevertheless arrived in time to warn the aggressors that neither Guinea nor any other independent and progressive nation stands alone.

The aggression against Guinea implies that any other African state that main-



tains an independent and progressive policy can be the target of a similar act. This was the reason for the unanimity of the agreements made in the recent ministerial conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Lagos, Nigeria, where the common will to liquidate colonialism and condemn with energy the big western powers that practice it was demonstrated as never before.

Alongside Pan-African solidarity pulsed that of all the free nations and peoples. The socialist camp raised its voices of denunciation and solidarity with Guinea. With all this, the UN turned deaf ears to the urgent Guinean plea for military aid and limited itself to creating an "investigatory commission" of the Security Council which reached Conakry four days after the aggression. Once more the UN demonstrated its impotence in the face of such events and confirmed that the people must be prepared and willing to defend themselves from the menace of imperialism, colonialism and their lackeys. Not for nothing did the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG), following the defeat of the European and African mercenaries who invaded its territory,



issue a call to the people to reintegrate themselves into their daily work but to keep a gun within reach.

The tactic of the aggression was perfectly clear: to isolate Conakry from the rest of the country. A large part of the Guinean capital is on a small island on the west coast, once separated from the continent by a 500-meter swampy strip that the former French colonial government filled. Thus the island is united to the continental territory. Its seizure would have given the invaders a strong position there and further facilitated larger disembarkations in order to continue the occupation of the country. In Guinea-Bissau hundreds of mercenaries joined the troops, ready to complete the operation.

The surprise attack which began at 3 am was directed on the one hand against the Presidential Palace, the Army command headquarters and the police stations, all of which are in district I; and on the other hand a contingent attacked in district II, Presi-

dent Touré's residence, the offices of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the airport, the headquarters of the Republican Guard and the country's principal military camp, the Alfayaya. The invader encountered firm resistance and the people came out everywhere to fight under the personal direction of Sékou Touré. Imperialism and colonialism once more fell into the error of underestimating the people's force when they are prepared to fight for their rights.

The attempts to overthrow Touré have very specific antecedents and motives. The most recent maneuvers date from last September 26, when various mercenaries were arrested in Labe. They came from Guinea-Bissau, where they were trained, and their mission was to assassinate Touré and effect a coup d'état. For several days, another group with the same aim infiltrated across the Ivory Coast border and last March a plot to overthrow the government was discovered.

The independent and progressive policy of the Democratic Party of Guinea and the support it provides for PAIGC are in themselves strong motives for Portuguese colonialism and its allies to want to change the course of the path taken by Touré to develop the country. Guinea has been and continues to be a dependable rear guard for the PAIGC fighters. The peoples of the two Guineas are united by ties of militant combat, by the rights of Africans to liberty and self-determination. If to this first reason is added the exploitative imperialist appetite for natural resources (rich deposits of dia-



monds, iron, gold and the strategic bauxite, raw material for aluminum, of which Guinea possesses a third of the world's reserves), one understands the frustrated attack. But there is more: Guinea's progressive foreign policy of complete support for all the liberation movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America is disturbing to imperialism.

UNDoubtedly, the role played by President Touré in the resounding victory was decisive. Born in Faranah, in 1922, Ahmed Sékou Touré, son of poor peasants, has a long revolutionary history that goes back to 1937 when, at just 15 years of age, he participated in a strike. He was president of the General Federation of Workers of Black Africa, mayor of Conakry, and member of the French National Assembly from 1956 to 1958, the year his country proclaimed its independence in the Guinean people's historic "No" to the French referendum. The single party over which he presides has improved the people's welfare little by little.

In the plenary session of the Central Committee of the PDG held in November, President Touré accused the

imperialist governments of having tried always to destroy the revolutionary order of his country or impede its progressive spirit. On the 30th of the same month, he told his people and the world, by radio: "The hour has come to abandon defensive tactics and move to the offensive in Angola, Mozambique and the other territories in the power of the colonialists."

SINCE political independence was attained on October 2, 1958, the government of President Sékou Touré has undertaken patiently but resolutely to change the backward social structure which is the product of 59 years of colonial domination, and to better the living conditions of the broad masses of the country through the reconstruction and development of all sectors of the ruined economy it inherited.

Twelve years of continuous efforts, of creative work very often hindered by numerous attacks from foreign enemies and the reactionary forces within the country have brought more than a few successes attributable to the Democratic Party of Guinea, which orients and leads the workers and other progressive elements in the brother African country.

Thus Guinea has created a monetary system of its own, has implemented planning as the appropriate means to a better directed economy, has nationalized banks, insurance agencies and hydroelectric resources, and with the aid of the socialist countries and Western countries or private capital, has created almost a hundred industries and state companies primarily dedicated to in-

dustry, agriculture, public service and trade.

Moreover, the methods adopted to obtain a gradual increase in agricultural production have lately brought about a considerable increase in production after years of stagnation, which, together with the reorganization of internal trade that has been achieved, has permitted the increase and improved supply of a series of products for the people. The creation of state farms and the stimulation — by furnishing farm machinery, seeds and fertilizer to the peasantry — of agricultural cooperatives based on the official policy of agricultural diversification and the elimination of one-crop farming have contributed greatly to this.

This accumulation of achievements has not, of course, been easy. In the first place there has been a determined battle against administrative corruption, speculation and illicit profit. And in the second place, Guinea has had to face a series of aggressions that run from the flight of capital and technicians to sabotage, assassination attempts

against the leaders, and armed attacks, suffering political pressure and economic boycott by the capitalist powers.

In recent years, Guinea has begun its industrial development in the exploitation of the rich bauxite mines, as well as its iron, diamond and gold deposits.

In presenting a balance of the progress Guinea has achieved, the following must be mentioned: advances in the area of public health; increased school attendance, the literacy campaign and the creation of new teachers' training schools for middle and advanced education; the construction of reservoirs for better use of water resources and the important role of the PDG, the single party which under President Touré's direction, concretizes, within the measure of possibilities, the most elemental interests of the people's masses.

Guinea's achievements demonstrate that the line taken by the government of Sékou Touré is evolving and advancing favorably despite the fact that it has had to travel a road filled with difficulties.