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THE 21ST CONGRESS OF THE CPSU AND TASKS OF
ORIENTAL STUDIES

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The 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union constitutes an important landmark in the development of the Soviet people and all progressive mankind.

A profound theoretical elucidation and substantiation of the basic problems of communist construction at the present level of our country's development was presented in N.S. Khrushchev's report on the control figures for the development of the USSR national economy and in the decisions of the congress. An exhausting analysis of the basic problems of the present era of world history was also presented in these documents. The present era was characterized as a turning point in history, in which capitalism is expiring and approaching its imminent end as a world system, while socialism, having transformed itself into a world system, is successfully developing and achieving still greater victories.

The theses set forth in N.S. Khrushchev's report and in the decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU constitute remarkable examples of the creative development of Marxism-Leninism. They represent a scientifically grounded program for the transition to communism. The Soviet nation, as the Congress noted, is at present entering into a new period of development -- the period of the extensive building of communism. The Seven-Year Plan for the national economy of the USSR for 1959-1965 is a majestic program for the establishment of the material and technical base for communism in our country. Thus, it will insure the decisive victory of socialism in its peaceful competition with capitalism. Of great scientific and political significance is the thesis that socialism in the USSR has fully won its struggle and emerged completely victorious, and that there are no longer any forces in the world which can re-establish capitalism in our country or crush the socialist camp. The complete and final victory of socialism in the USSR at the same time con-

stitutes a guarantee of the final victory of socialism in the whole socialist camp.

A great new contribution to the theory of scientific communism made at the Congress was the further development of Marxist-Leninist theories on the two phases of Communism and on the laws governing the evolution of socialism into communism. "The transition from the socialist stage of development to the higher phase," as noted in N.S. Khrushchev's report, "is a natural historical process that cannot be arbitrarily violated or bypasses." Any retreat from this principle would inevitably harm the building of socialist and communist societies.

Of exceptional theoretical and practical significance are the theses expressed at the Congress on the paths of the further development towards communism of countries which are at present entering the world socialist camp. While the law of the unequal economic and political development of countries operates under imperialism, under a socialist economic system it is replaced by the operations of the law of planned, proportional development. As a result of this law, the formerly economically backward socialist countries, by drawing on the experience of other socialist countries, as well as on their cooperation and mutual assistance, have acquired the means for quickly overcoming their economic and cultural backwardness. In these countries, the foundation for the transition from the first to the second stage of communism will be created at an increasingly rapid pace. Thus, the common line of economic and cultural development will be evened out. As a result of this factor, the socialist countries will advance to the higher phase of communist society more or less simultaneously.

Many important theses on questions of primary importance for the understanding of the political and economic processes which are at present taking place in the countries of the East are contained in N.S. Khrushchev's report, in the statements made by delegates at the Congress, in the decisions adopted, as well as in the reports of foreign guests.

In examining problems of international relations, the Congress devoted much attention to an analysis of the people's heroic struggles against colonialists in the non-socialist countries of the East. The very fact of the existence of socialism has had a favorable effect on the development of the national liberation movements. The strengthening of the world socialist system has deprived the imperialists of the opportunity to encroach with impunity upon the newly acquired independence of many peoples of Asia and Africa. The example of socialist countries demonstrates to the oppressed peoples that they too can conquer their

age-old backwardness with their own forces and can achieve rapid progress.

In discussing the historical changes which have recently taken place in the countries of the East, N.S. Khrushchev noted that there are a number of countries which are not socialist but which cannot be included within the imperialist system. "The countries which have achieved independence in the wake of a struggle for liberation desire to proceed along their own paths. Having eliminated colonial oppression and bypassed the capitalist stage of development, they can begin the construction of their own societies upon new foundations." Many leaders in these countries are full of good-will toward the socialist countries; they do not at all view them as antagonists, and do not see in them enemies of their own striving toward the building of a new life free of the colonial yoke. This is why the socialist countries have good, friendly relations with such governments, a fact of tremendous international significance. The balance of power is at present not on the side of the imperialist states, but on the side of the countries entering the world socialist system and the countries struggling against imperialism and colonialism.

A majority of the colonial and semicolonial countries, which not so long ago constituted the resources and preserves of imperialism, have become an active world force as a result of the lengthy struggles of their peoples.

Of principal significance is the characterization of Communists, given in N.S. Khrushchev's report, as the most consistent and selfless fighters against colonialism and imperialism and for the political independence and economic self-sufficiency of countries of the East. The struggle waged by Communists will undoubtedly serve to unmask the anticommunist campaigns carried out in some countries of the East. It will discredit the unscientific and, therefore, incorrect opposition between socialism and communism, which has been set forth in the printed works and statements of some of the leaders of these countries.

It was stressed in the decisions of the Congress that scientists face the enormous problem of creatively generalizing and providing bold theoretical solutions in regard to the new problems raised by life. A stern criticism was sounded from the high tribune of the Congress on the continuing backwardness of many scientific research institutions, collectives, and individual workers, in regard to the demands made upon the social sciences by the new stage of communist construction. In particular, it was noted that many institutes and some scientists have remained aloof from the struggle to solve the most important practical problems

of communist construction; instead, they have devoted themselves to studies of abstract subjects, and actually broken with life. Frequently, published works have a narrative character and repeat well-known theses, facts, and arguments; and some works even contain errors or misinterpretations.

We must admit that this criticism has a direct and immediate bearing on the works of Soviet orientalists. Carrying out the decisions of the 20th Congress of the CPSU, the orientalists have attained notable successes. They have accomplished the transition to a study of actual problems, increased the output of scientific works, strengthened the struggle against bourgeois ideology and revisionism, and carried out a number of worthwhile scientific discussions on important theoretical questions. Nevertheless, the work of Soviet orientalists is still far from being adequate to the demands made by reality itself. A penetrating study of the most real, contemporary problems is the most important basic task. It must become a point of honor for the orientalists to create works -- monographs, brochures, articles, publications, etc. -- which would aid further theoretical research on the foreign policy of the Soviet Union in relation to the countries of the East.

The decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU have demonstrated the tremendous significance of the world socialist system for the fate of mankind. Accordingly, Soviet orientalists must primarily give their attention to the problems of the building of socialism in the people's democratic republics of Asia, and, above all, in the great Chinese People's Republic.

The Soviet people deeply rejoice in the tremendous successes achieved by the Chinese people in the building of a socialist society.

The indissoluble, fraternal friendship between the peoples of the USSR and China is daily growing stronger and constitutes a firm guarantee for world peace. The international reactionaries and Yugoslav revisionists (deviationists from Marxism), have failed in their attempts to drive a wedge between the two great peoples and to undermine their eternal, indissoluble friendship.

The peculiarities of China's historical development, productive forces, and national culture, as well as the specific character of the revolutionary creativity of its masses, have all given rise to its own methods of socialist construction, which in many ways do not resemble the methods employed by other socialist countries. A study of the problems of socialist construction and their peculiarities in the Chinese People's Republic constitutes the basic content of the scientific research work of Soviet Chinese scholars.

The tremendous changes which have taken place in the Chinese People's Republic cannot be understood or explained without a thorough, penetrating study of the country's history. Consequently, such problems as the peculiarities of the development of socio-economic structures, or the peculiarities of the development of ideology and culture are continuously in the forefront of the scientific research work of Soviet Chinese scholars.

Of great significance is the study of the history of social thought, literature, art, science, and the problems of philology and linguistics. By drawing upon the rich legacy acquired by Russian and Soviet scholarship in the study of the culture and languages of the Chinese peoples, our Chinese scholars will expand the range of their research and will better acquaint the Soviet people with the leading role played by the Chinese people in the development of world culture.

The scholars studying the MPR, the KPDR, and the DRV are faced with the crucial tasks of making profound generalizations about the experiences of socialist construction in the people's democracies of Asia and about the course of events in the struggle of the peoples of Korea and Vietnam for national unification.

Each year, the mutual economic cooperation of the countries of the Socialist camp is broadened. However, until now, the study of the economic relations between the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic and other countries in the socialist camp has not been given its proper due. The problems of the economic ties developing between the socialist countries and the countries of the East also deserve serious study in the light of the decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU.

We must further the rapidly growing ties and cooperative efforts between Soviet orientologists and the scientists of CPR, KPDR, DRV, and MPP. A further strengthening of these ties and cooperative efforts will undoubtedly greatly aid Soviet oriental studies as well as the development of particular branches of the humanities in the socialist countries of the East.

The present reality affords an infinite wealth of material for a penetrating study of the problems connected with the collapse of the colonial system and with the processes of the liquidation of colonialism. The creation of basic works on these subjects, which combine depth of scientific research with comprehensive analysis of extensive factual material, will constitute a significant contribution to Marxist-Leninist theories on the national and colonial questions. A large part of the activities of Soviet orienta-

lists is devoted to subjects connected with the study of the methods of the political, economic, and ideological infiltration of imperialism into the countries of the East and with the study and unmasking of the new forms of contemporary colonialism inspired by the monopolies of the United States.

Soviet orientalist, at the center and locally, consider their primary tasks to consist of a penetrating study of the political and economic regimes, as well as of the concrete paths of economic developments of the independent countries of the East. In particular, they are intent on carrying out a thorough and penetrating study of the problems connected with state capitalism, including an analysis of its socio-economic nature.

The attention of orientalists studying actual contemporary problems will undoubtedly be attracted to the following questions: the correlation of economics and politics in the countries of the East, the internal and external conditions and factors for the realization of the possibility of a non-capitalistic order of development in the countries of the East, and the distribution of social forces in these countries.

The section of oriental studies concerned with the study of the conditions of the working class and of workers' movements in the countries of the East continues to lag behind. Many new problems and events connected with the entrance of the major countries of the East on to the path of independent development remain outside the range of our researchers' field of vision. These subjects include the struggle of the working class for a higher standard of living, the role of the working class in industrialization, and the part played by the working class in the whole social and political life of the economically underdeveloped countries.

The considerable successes achieved by communist and labor parties in a number of sovereign countries of the East are well known. However, up to the present, the circle of orientalist research workers engaged in studying the working class movements in countries of the East is still very narrow.

A very important factor in the collapse of the imperialistic colonial system is the continuous crisis in the agrarian situation in the colonies, semi-colonies, and dependent countries. In the postwar years, agrarian reforms were carried out in a number of countries of the East; however, we still have very few monographs devoted to the changes which have taken place in the agrarian systems of the countries of the East. In particular, not enough attention is given to the study of problems connected with class differentiation within the peasantry and to problems connected

with class differentiation within the peasantry and to problems connected with the accelerated capitalistic transformation of agriculture and its attendant consequences. A very important and interesting problem arising at this new stage of development is the struggle for hegemony in the peasant movement by the working class.

The spread of national liberation, anti-imperialist movements and the objective conditions which are hastening the development of national capitalism in a number of Asian and African countries require further study of the complex problems of the formation of nations, which are known to have a tremendous effect on the forms and methods of the liberation struggle. Unfortunately, the study of these problems has been completely neglected until now. Basic works, characterizing the formation of new nations in Asia, and, particularly in Africa, are urgently needed. Soviet African studies are especially significant at present. The collapse of the colonial system has also overtaken Africa. Africa is playing an increasingly significant role in the world capitalist economy, as well as in international life. However, the scientific literature on Africa, written by Soviet scholars can literally be counted on the fingers of one hand. A limitless opportunity for activity lies before the research workers on Africa. The study of various African problems has become especially significant. These problems include the national liberation struggle of the peoples of Africa, the sharpening of contradictions among the imperialist powers in their struggle for African raw materials and markets, the nature of the political organizations active in the African continent, the nature of the tactics and passive resistance methods which are employed by many political groups in African countries, the interrelationships among African countries, etc.

The orientalists and students of Africa in Moscow, Leningrad, and the union republics must increase their activities in the study of the varied and complex problems of African history, ethnography, economics, and philology; they must coordinate their efforts and considerably extend the scope of their research.

A study of the actual problems of the contemporary political and economic conditions in the countries of the East is impossible without a study of the historical past of the peoples of these countries. The rich legacy inherited from prerevolutionary Russian oriental studies is being creatively adopted and further developed by Soviet research workers and orientalists under the new conditions.

The efforts of scientists in Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent, Stalinabad, Tbilisi, Baku, and in many other centers of

Soviet oriental studies have led to the publication of a considerable number of works devoted to the history of various countries of the East. Many of the Soviet scholars who are highly esteemed in our country have also gained a deserved reputation far beyond its borders. Nevertheless, what has been accomplished in this area is far from being adequate. The historical past of the peoples of several Asian and African countries continues to remain outside our researchers' field of vision. The number of basic research projects devoted to the history of the peoples of the countries of the East in ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary times is still extremely small. The most important problems of feudalism in the countries of the East have still not been studied, e. g., the genesis of capitalism, the growth of the working class, the formation of the bourgeoisie. Works devoted to these and other problems will further the final refutation of such concepts as the "organic backwardness" of the countries of the East, and the illusory "civilizing mission of Western countries" preached by the colonialists.

Soviet orientologists can note with satisfaction their well-known accomplishments in the field of Eastern philology. At present, a comparatively large number of Eastern languages and literatures are being studied in our country. Philologists and linguists in fraternal Soviet Socialist Republics and scholars in the People's Democracies, in cooperation with Russian specialist scholars, have made valuable contributions to the study of the literatures and languages of the peoples of the East. The study of the cultural inheritance of the peoples of Asia and Africa and the exposition of their outstanding contributions to world culture are not only of significance in themselves, but also strengthen the position of the peoples of the East in their struggle against imperialism. The Conference of African and Asian Writers, which was held last year in Tashkent, clearly demonstrated the importance of literature as a powerful ideological weapon in the struggle against colonialism and in the building of a new life in the East.

The study and correct evaluation of the thousand-year-old literary traditions of the peoples of the East enable us to observe the struggle of the "two cultures": the peoples' culture and the aristocrats' culture. A thoughtful study of the folklore of the East clearly demonstrates the democratic traditions of the people's creative activities and the tremendous significance which folklore has had in the formation of the progressive literatures of the peoples of the East. At the same time, the philological scholars have directed most of their efforts to the study of the contemporary state of national literatures and to the study of the important

role which these literatures play in the struggle against the different forms of colonialism and against imperialist ideology.

Thorough research of the formation and development of national literatures in Asian and African countries is inflicting smashing blows on the reactionary theories of a European-centered culture. In connection with this research, the study of problems connected with the mutual interaction of Western and Eastern literatures is assuming great significance.

A large group of Soviet linguists and orientalists are fruitfully employed in the study of the processes of the formation and development of modern and ancient Eastern languages. The linguists can give a good account of themselves; for, now matter how abstract their research may appear at first glance, it both serves in the solution of general problems and renders assistance to the struggle against colonialism and its ideology waged by the scientists of the countries of the East. However, we must note that many languages of the peoples of the East, and, above all, the languages of a number of African and Southeast Asian countries, are almost completely neglected in our country. This serious lack must be eliminated without delay. There is also an urgent need to raise the scientific level of theoretical generalizations in the field of linguistics and literature, in order to advance from mere narration to a penetrating Marxist ideological and artistic analysis of contemporary literature and the literary heritage. In this way, Eastern philology will help to gain respect for Soviet oriental studies among the intelligentsia in Asian and African countries. A successful solution of the important problems which lie before Eastern philology is possible only through the coordination of scientific work in this area among all the branches of the study of eastern languages. In addition, there must be coordination of work arising in connection with Eastern philology in theoretical problems of linguistics, scientific analysis of texts and artistic translations, and studies of literatures and literary criticism.

The friendly, coordinated work of the Institutes of Oriental Studies and Sinology of the Academy of Sciences USSR, oriental study institutions of union republics, institutes of Linguistics and World Literature Institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR, the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations Abroad, the Union of Writers USSR, as well as publishing houses, will undoubtedly serve to strengthen this important area of work.

The continuing lag in the study of ideology (philosophical thought, history of religion, contemporary currents

of social thought) and in the study of the arts of the peoples of the East is of serious concern to our scientific community.

Soviet scientists are being drafted by the Party for a decisive struggle for maintaining the purity of Marxist-Leninist theory against any kind of attempt by revisionists and falsifiers to distort or change the basic theories of the teachings of Marx and Lenin. These instructions of the Party serve as the basis of the activities of Soviet orientalists. Soviet orientalists have repeatedly participated in the struggle against revisionists and falsifiers of Marxism-Leninism. However, the new problems which have arisen in oriental studies demand a strengthening of the struggle against the ideological enemies of Marxism and against the apologists for colonialism. A militant party spirit, irreconcilable with any manifestation of bourgeois ideology, must permeate all our research work.

The 25th International Congress of Orientalists will gather in Leningrad in the summer of 1960 and, at a later date, the 13th International Conference of Sinologists will also meet there. In cooperation with orientalists from the Peoples' Democracies and progressive orientalists from Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, Soviet orientalists will consider the basic, qualitative changes that have occurred in the development of oriental studies as a result of the achievement of national independence by the peoples of the East and their entrance onto a path which will demonstrate in a new way the tremendous role played by the peoples of Asia and Africa in world culture.

Less than two years remain until the calling of the 25th International Congress of Orientalists and the 13th International Conference of Sinologists. It is the duty of all Soviet orientalists and oriental studies institutions and organizations to participate more actively in the preparatory work, which, when carried out, will lead to the further progress of our science and will gain for it a fitting place in world oriental studies.

The scientific magazine "Problems of Oriental Studies" must become a creative tribune for Soviet orientalists; it has been called upon to play an important role in the solution of the crucial problems set before Soviet oriental studies. The name of the magazine alone implies that, above all, material which deals with problems in a profound and significant manner will be published in its pages. This will serve to unite around the magazine a wide circle of scientists interested in the further creative development of our oriental studies.

The basic task of the magazine "Problems of Oriental Studies" is to deal with actual questions of the history,

economics, politics, culture, literature, and languages of the peoples of the Asian and African countries. Materials on the life and struggle of the toilers of the people's democracies of the East in the course of the construction of socialism will be systematically published in its pages.

The historical experience of Soviet science as a whole bears witness to the constant interest taken by the Soviet government and the Communist Party and its Central Committee in the development of oriental studies. The constant interest taken by our people in the present condition of the peoples of the East and in their historic past is a guarantee of further successes in Soviet oriental studies.

The decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU have clearly and exhaustively determined the path to be taken by Soviet orientologists in further scientific research. Drawing upon the tremendous ideological wealth contained in these decisions, scientists - orientologists will make their contribution to the cause of the building of a communist society.

END