

Who Are Afghanistan's New Leaders ?

When Afghanistan's royal family was swept away by a coup d'etat last April, British and American newspapers quickly jumped on the revolutionary developments to label the new government a puppet of the Soviet Union. British newspapers, led by the *Daily Telegraph*, went so far as to instigate a press campaign to "demonstrate" that the Soviet Union, through its "puppet" Afghanistan regime, would now drive to the Persian Gulf, "destabilize" Iran and Pakistan without any compunction and set the region afire with tribal and other outbursts. This month, the Cuban press agency *Prensa Latina* reported that the new Afghan government aborted a coup d'etat against it. The coup d'etat is believed to have had the backing of China and Pakistan in the region, and outside the region the United States and former British colonial networks — all to contain the "Soviet menace."

The man who has produced so much consternation is a mere mortal — the current Prime Minister and President of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Tarakki. He was little known to the outside world prior to the April coup, but as his own speeches demonstrate clearly, Tarakki is one of a small band of intellectuals who have persisted in their desire to bring

Afghanistan, a feudal kingdom, into the 20th century of progress and development.

Contrary to the Western newspapers' allegations of what his government ought to do, Tarakki in four months of power has accomplished much to change Afghanistan. He has ordered a major literacy drive, in a country where less than 5 percent of the population can read or write. In addition, his Khalq Party, now the ruling party, but for years the teachers and administrators — the "elite" of the country — has taken to the field to implement the new government's decrees for debt relief and total land reform. This is the base for the Tarakki government, a base the royal family, sponsored and supported by the British Empire, never had in the population.

Below is an August 1 speech by Tarakki himself to give the outside world a real look at the inner makings of Afghanistan's new leaders. Tarakki demonstrates in no uncertain terms that the social class he represents, the educated elite, is here to stay and that their program for Afghanistan to develop both its natural and labor resources will not tolerate any foreign efforts to prevent this goal, be they the Muslim reaction, the old Colonial Office, or the tribalists.

Tarakki: 'A New World, A New Man, And A New Society'

We have always been related to each other by means of a strong link, namely the progressive ideology of workers, farmers and peasants and we have been very close to each other, as close as fingernails and fingertips. . . . You, the valiant revolutionary youth, accomplished a task, under the leadership of your party, that was unique in the world. But this achievement, as we have always said, has not been gained by chance or accident. You and the world at large know that this is the result of the systematic party struggles which we have conducted for many long years. When our political party was established, over 13 years ago, on the basis of a new progressive ideology, these struggles yielded a truly interesting result. Of course, the establishment of this party did not mean that we had suddenly awakened after 13 years. It was the result of piecemeal activities during the past 25 years; the nucleus of this party was formed 20 years before it was established. For this reason, I say to all my comrades: This was no chance event or

accident. I repeat once again that it was the regular party activity which was founded on a progressive ideology that led to the establishment of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) of Afghanistan, which is the leading party of the working class in the country.

Your party attained great political success as it established, for the first time, a government of the workers, farmers and toilers in Afghanistan, and it took control of political power. But this is not enough. We can only obtain the very desirable results of our political power when we utilize it in such a way as to eradicate the stinking, rotten, feudal society from its foundations and build in its place a new world, a new man and a new society. The progressive works we have rendered during a period of 3 months are truly unprecedented in the history of Afghanistan.

The issuance of Decree No. 6 of the Revolutionary Council is an historical measure which rescues millions of hard-working farmers from the evils of the

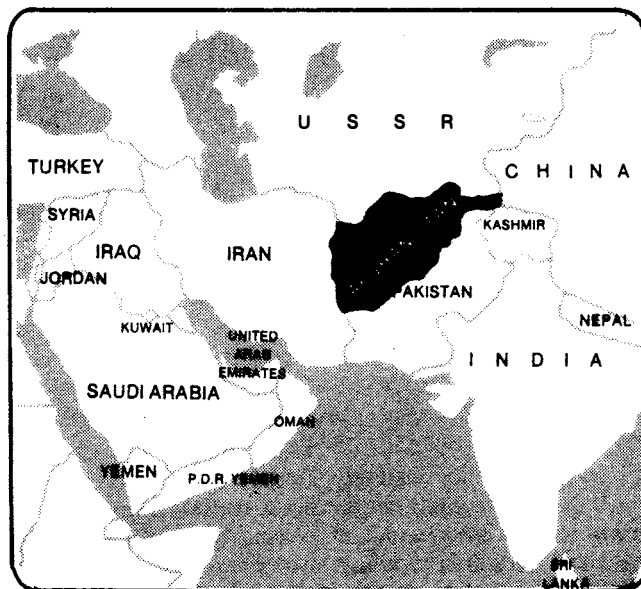
rapacious, blood-thirsty wolves who used to have a life of luxury and enjoyment thanks to the flesh and blood of their prey. Our government issued its Decree No. 6 under the leadership of the PDP and as a result, freed the farmers and toilers from the claws of the cruel rulers. This is a measure of which we can all be proud. This is not only a source of pride but is a fulfillment of our primary duty that we owed to our workers. This heavy blow dealt at feudalism has shaken its very foundations. Thanks to this measure and the land reforms, the feudal system, its remnants and the feudal way of thinking will be eliminated in our society; and our land reforms are not very far off either.

We want to create a society in which our workers and farmers can afford to appear in handsome attire and enjoy a good life and health; we want this kind of society.

With regard to the party, it should first become more orderly, more effective and more extensive than before. For now we no longer act in secrecy. From now on a more precise party charter and discipline will be contemplated. Our comrades ought to once again carefully study the workers' and farmers' ideology. I strongly advise my comrades to closely observe party order, discipline and ideology and not only to observe them but to act on them.

If a person becomes a PDP member it means that he is a philosopher, a dialectician, an historian and knows socialist principles and can act upon them. Such prominent party members will be able to build our society in accordance with the needs and wishes of the people and can rescue them from the present social and economic ailments. Party comrades should particularly know against whom they should use the tank, gun and machinegun.

When our party took over political power, the exploiting classes and reactionary forces went into action. The only rusty and antiquated tool that they use against us is preaching in the name of faith and religion against the progressive movement of our homeland. The bootlickers of the old and new imperialism are treacherously struggling to nip our popular government in the bud. They think that since we took over power in 10 hours, they would, perhaps, capture it in 15 hours. But they must know that we are the children of history and history has brought us here. These agents of international reaction ought to know that by acting in this way they are banging their heads against a brick wall. These agents of imperialism who plot under the mask of faith and religion have not begun this task recently. They have been busy conspiring against progressive movements in this fashion for many long years. You will remember the crimes they committed in various forms in Egypt and other Arab countries. Now their remnants and pupils existing in Afghanistan are acting under the mask of creed and religion in a different fashion. They ought to be uprooted as a



cancerous tumor is from the body of a patient in a surgical operation. These madmen of the right and leftist-leaning lunatics are rigorously under control. Whenever they commit an act against the revolution they will be rigorously crushed, for they are waiting for an opportunity to embark on activities in one way or another against us. Your government and your party are so fully in control that they will not give them a chance to act. This party and this government will not allow the lunatics of the left and of the right to carry out their evil deeds. I emphasize once again that we will pursue a serious struggle against such enemies, be they acting overtly or covertly.

We have no overt enemies, and our struggle against our covert enemies depends on the consolidation, progress and strength of our people's party. This party is capable of struggling against everyone such as it has done in the past, and I am certain that it will be able to do so in the future.

Our foreign policy is very open and clear. We do not want to enter into any military bloc and we will not do so. We have boycotted all military blocs. We are party to no alliance. But our nonalignment by no means indicates that we cannot render independent judgment. We have told the American ambassador and President Carter's envoy that we are nonaligned; and let no one doubt that no one has any right to interfere in our internal affairs; we alone have the discretion to determine what is right and what is wrong, and to render our free judgment and independent decision. No one can dictate to us. I told Carter's envoy that we will say what we think is right and what we think is wrong. We have our own principles. On the basis of our principles, our delegate at the nonaligned countries' foreign ministerial conference said in Belgrade: Those who are members

of military blocs have no right to sit in the ranks of the nonaligned countries either as members or as observers. This is our judgment; this is a principle.

. . . Those who are members of aggressive blocs should not sit among the group of nonaligned countries. But some countries say: Notwithstanding our being members of CENTO or NATO, you ought to have endorsed us for you are nonaligned. This is what our nonalignment means to us. . . .

But as a comrade, I say to you that we want peace. We preserve peace and defend detente. From the viewpoint of my party responsibility, I tell my comrades: We want good relations with friends and neighbors, and we do not wish to interfere in their internal affairs or to embark on a conspiracy against them. We will try to maintain good relations with them. . . .

With regard to internal affairs, I assure you that nowhere throughout the country is there anyone or any power obstructing our path. I can tell you that our party is dominant everywhere. As I said earlier in my television interview, from the head of the smallest administrative unit to the president of the Revolutionary Council all are Khalqis (members of the PDP). We all conduct our affairs in accordance with Khalqi mentality and Khalqi responsibility.

Similarly, and this is another thing I can tell you, in the military area, from the rank of 3rd lieutenant to the president of the Revolutionary Council, all are either Khalqis or Khalqi sympathizers or are bound to become Khalqis. In other words, the PDP is in full control in the army. . . .

The course of reform is in progress thanks to Decree No. 6 of the Revolutionary Council—one of the monumental achievements in the eyes of the regime. Under this decree, farmers with little or no land have been freed of the debts they had incurred to landlords and moneylenders. You have sharpened the class struggle in Afghanistan. The class struggle which we awaited for many long years is now gaining in intensity. Previously, nothing material existed for our

people to awaken their political awareness and to make them rise against the feudal lords. I congratulate you and your party, comrades, for the success of your party in capturing political power from the feudalists. This is a great thing that has happened and is a basis for pride especially for those of our youth and party members who fought for it. We are of course grateful to all other progressive people who have collaborated with us in this task.

Let me conclude by urging you strongly, comrades, to couple your studies and knowledge with action; find good, clean and pious comrades. You should not only be an example of political, social and moral piety in the army but throughout the country so that everyone will say that the Khalqis are truly honorable and trustworthy people to be proud of. Our comrades set such an example even before the revolution. I always used to advise them: Always observe your piety, whether you are a teacher, a director or whatever job you may have.

The majority of our comrades were teachers. Before the revolution, whoever wanted to punish one of our comrades would accuse him of being a Khalqi, for he had good morals and would not take bribes. It was on the basis of this piety, that is political and social piety, that we took over power. We had neither money nor anything else to offer the people. All we had was political piety; and we always ought to be exemplary. We are capable of attracting even greater trust in our society and of introducing changes for the benefit of the people thus implementing our slogan, which was bread, clothes and shelter. From then on the people can realize their happiness, prosperity and progress.

Even if all the world's reactionary forces unite against us, they could not make us retreat from our position—even by an inch. Of course, the possibility of some individual measures on the part of the black reaction exists. But we are bringing new changes to society in Afghanistan. No one can obstruct us in this way. They will not obstruct us.

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