

CONGO, SOUTH VIETNAM AND LAOS

The Seventh Congress of the CPI expresses grave concern over the recent developments in Congo, South Vietnam and Laos where increasing imperialist intervention is endangering world peace.

In Congo, the Belgian paratroopers and foreign mercenaries, aided by the US and British imperialists, are carrying on military

operations against the Congolese patriots in order to buttress the tottering regime of the notorious imperialist stooge, Tshombe. The smokescreen of "saving White hostages" who are said to be threatened by the revolutionary army and the stories of alleged atrocities now being doled out in order to cover up this aggression, can deceive no one.

Ever since the foul assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the imperialist powers have sought to intervene in the Congo in order to retain the hold of foreign monopolists on the rich mineral wealth of this country. But the popular liberation forces have continued to grow in strength and already the patriotic army has liberated a large part of the country's territory. Hence this open intervention.

This armed intervention has been rightly condemned as an act of aggression by the governments and peoples of resurgent Africa and 22 African nations have sought to move the Security Council on it. This act of aggression is all the more condemnable since it comes at a time when the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) had set up a special committee under the chairmanship of Jomo Kenyatta to help solve the Congo problem in a peaceful manner. The US-British-Belgian action is thus a flagrant attack not only on the Congo but on the entire African peoples.

The Congress appeals to the Indian people to express their solidarity with the people of Congo and to raise their voice of protest and indignation against this heinous crime against the freedom of Congo and world peace. The demand "Hands off Congo!" must ring out from every nook and corner of the country. The Congress demands that all foreign troops and mercenaries be withdrawn immediately from Congo and the people of Congo left to settle their affairs themselves.

It is a matter for satisfaction that the Government of India has also demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops. But it is regrettable that it has not unequivocally condemned this latest imperialist intervention in Congo. It is all the more regrettable since at the Cairo Conference when the question of admission of Tshombe, the murderer of Patrice Lumumba, to the Conference was discussed, the representatives of India present in

the conference abstained from voting. No pleas can justify this attitude of neutrality or silence as it, in effect, means encouragement to the neo-colonialists. The Indian people cannot permit such deviations from India's declared policy of anti-colonialism and Afro-Asian solidarity.

Nearer home in South-East Asia also, faced with the resurgent tide of the freedom struggle of South Vietnamese patriots, the US imperialists are further intensifying their military intervention in this region. They have learnt nothing from the fiascos of their earlier plans or from the worldwide condemnation of their aggressive action in the Gulf of Tonkin. Now the Pentagon is busy drawing up plans of resort to military action in North Vietnam and Laos. This will not only be an attack on the two countries concerned but also a flagrant violation of the Geneva Agreement and a serious threat to world peace.

The hands of the US incendiaries can and must be stayed.

India has a special responsibility in the matter, being the Chairman of the Supervisory Commission for South Vietnam, and must see that the Geneva Agreement is observed.

The Congress is of the considered opinion that this responsibility has not been discharged. On the contrary, the Indian representative on the Supervisory Commission has turned a blind eye to the bringing in of US arms and personnel and the open aggression by the US imperialists against the Vietnamese people.

The Indian people must see that this shameful attitude of the Government of India is ended.

The Congress appeals to the Indian people to raise their voice of protest and condemnation of the increasing US aggression in South-East Asia and calls upon the Government of India to act up to the firm anti-colonialist stand of the Cairo Declaration and demand that US imperialist intervention in South Vietnam and Laos be stopped and all US military personnel be withdrawn.