

A Commitment to Third World Development and Independence

The G.D.R. and its citizens are deeply involved in providing concrete aid for developing nations and for struggles against imperialism.

A report on the German Democratic Republic's solidarity with developing countries and national liberation movements was circulated as an official UN document in New York in October, 1984. The report, compiled by the G.D.R. foreign ministry, shows that the G.D.R., within the scope of its potential, is assisting African, Asian and Latin American states in, among other things, training personnel in various trades and professions, surely the most effective contribution to national development in the countries concerned.

For example, over 60,000 people from developing nations have undergone vocational or advanced training in the G.D.R. since 1970. In 1983, 1,562 students from developing countries graduated from higher education facilities in the German socialist state. Over 16,000 have done so since 1970. The G.D.R. helped realize 79 industrial projects in developing states in 1983 and granted altogether 80 licences to 30 such countries.

International solidarity was laid down in the G.D.R. Constitution when the country was founded on October 7, 1949, and has been state policy from the very outset. It is also part and parcel of the documents of the leading political force, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), and the resolutions of the other parties and mass organizations. Political, moral and material solidarity has become a matter very close to the hearts of G.D.R. people in all walks of life. The following examples will prove this.

Solidarity With Africa

The government and population of the G.D.R. are effectively helping the national liberation movements in Southern Africa—the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia and the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. Leading representatives of the G.D.R. have, at the UN, its specialized agencies, and other international bodies, repeatedly emphasized the Namibian people's right to self-determination and independence and the G.D.R.'s solidarity with the liberation movements SWAPO and ANC, as well as with the Frontline States: Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana and Lesotho.



Wounded SWAPO fighter arrives in G.D.R. for medical treatment

They sharply criticized any attempt by the South African apartheid regime and its imperialist allies to prevent Namibia's independence and perpetuate the illegal South African occupation.

In mid-October, 1984, a delegation from the G.D.R. Solidarity Committee attended a three-day international solidarity conference in Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany) on the theme "Peace to southern Africa—Solidarity with the liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia." A resolution, adopted also on behalf of the G.D.R. delegation at the end of the event, emphasized that the policy of apartheid not only posed a threat to peace in Africa but in the world at large. Apartheid was possible only through the backing by the U.S. and other Western countries, it said.

The 450 representatives at the conference

also adopted a programme of action calling for the stepping up of efforts worldwide to free the South African patriot Nelson Mandela and all other activists incarcerated because of their resistance to the apartheid regime. A worldwide campaign, launched by the UN Committee Against Apartheid some time ago, was also supported by tens of thousands of G.D.R. people. They sent postcards to the Botha government in South Africa demanding the release of Nelson Mandela.

ANC and SWAPO have been given urgently needed blankets, clothing, tents, medicines, medical instruments and food, all items financed from donations of the G.D.R. population. Wounded Namibian and South African patriots have undergone, or are undergoing, medical treatment in the G.D.R.

Solidarity With the Arab Region

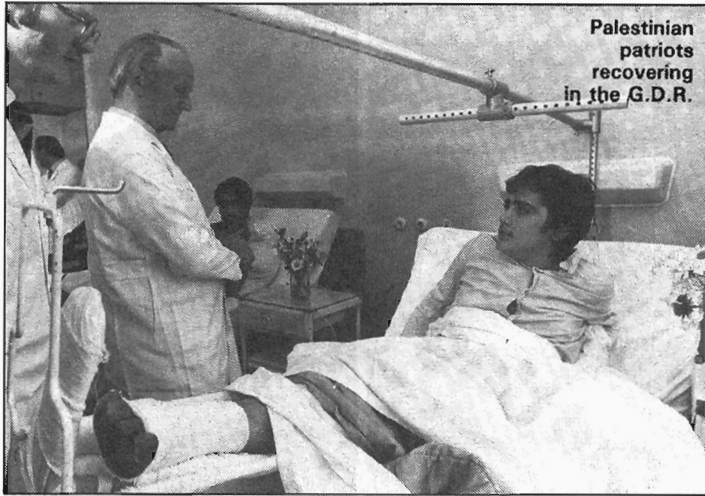
Solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle of the Arab peoples, too, has been practised in the G.D.R. for many years. The government and entire population of the German socialist state are resolutely working for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon and all other territories illegally held by them. They demand that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon

Solidarity With Latin America

Wide-ranging political, moral and material solidarity is also being offered by the G.D.R. government and people to the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador and all other forces in the region who are resisting the policy of boycott and aggression of the United States. The G.D.R. sharply denounces the gruesome U.S. invasion of Grenada and criticizes the Reagan Administration's

ference, economic plundering and fascist tyranny. They again made clear that anti-imperialist solidarity was a matter close to the hearts of all G.D.R. people and that the struggle for preserving peace was closely linked with the commitment to anti-imperialist solidarity.

An outstanding event among these activities was the "Meeting of friendship and anti-imperialist solidarity between the youth of the G.D.R. and Nicaragua" in the



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must be preserved. They also resolutely call for the guaranteeing of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including the Palestinians' right to self-determination and independent statehood in line with the UN resolutions on the Palestine issue.

These demands were also reaffirmed by working people and school and other students who attended numerous meetings in workplaces and residential areas throughout the G.D.R. in June, 1984, to mark the traditional "Week of Solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle of the Arab peoples." November 29, The day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, also always sees meetings and numerous other events guided by this spirit.

Algerian worker receiving professional training



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adventurous policy of waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua and backing terrorist and inhuman regimes in Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti and other countries.

One highpoint of G.D.R. solidarity was the "Week of solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples of Latin America" early in September 1984. At over one hundred events and in a joint declaration made on behalf of the G.D.R. Solidarity Committee, the trade union confederation FDGF, the National Front Council, the Free German Youth (FDJ) and many other organizations, the residents of the German socialist state demonstrated their solidarity with the just struggle of the peoples in the sub-continent for peace, democracy and social advance, and against imperialist inter-



D.R.

country town of Erfurt. During numerous gatherings at industrial enterprises, cooperative farms and schools, young people of the two countries exchanged ideas and experience and cemented their firm friendship.

In addition, the G.D.R. continued to send a number of solidarity consignments to Nicaragua in 1984. At the end of October 1984, badly wounded Nicaraguan patriots were again flown to the G.D.R. to undergo medical treatment. A plane of the G.D.R.'s Interflug airline had earlier been transformed into a flying hospital.

In the town of Jinotepe, an FDJ friendship work team, together with young Nicaraguans, set up a vocational training centre. Completed in summer 1984, the facility is now training skilled personnel for major branches of the Nicaraguan economy. The equipment of the centre was financed from money G.D.R. people had remitted to the Solidarity Account.

The G.D.R. population also sides in sympathy and solidarity with the patriots in other Latin American countries who are continuing to wage an untiring and sacrificial struggle against the U.S.-backed military dictatorships in their states. For example, the G.D.R. is adding to international activities campaigning for the immediate release of Antonio Maidane, First Secretary of the Paraguayan Communist Party, and all other imprisoned patriots. It also sides in solidarity with the Chilean men, women and young people who launch powerful actions against the fascist dictatorship so that Chile can return to democracy.