

Imperialism, Colonialism, Zionism Is Terrorism

THE Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly debated on the question of so-called "international terrorism" from November 9 to 22.

From beginning to end, many delegations from the third world strongly opposed the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. They pointed out that this kind of debate would be made use of by the imperialist, colonialist and Zionist forces to vilify the national-liberation movements. After the debate began on November 9, the representatives of Israel, South Africa, Portugal and a few other states did exactly this. They slandered the Palestinian liberation movement and the liberation movements in southern Africa as "terrorist organizations" and also slandered those countries which rendered support to these movements. This aroused the strong indignation of the delegations of many, especially the Arab and African, countries.

Chinese Representative Pi Chi-lung said: "The Chinese Government is opposed to assassination and hijacking of individuals as a means for waging political struggles and is also opposed to adventurist acts of terrorism by individuals or a handful of people divorced from the masses, because they are detrimental to the interests of the cause of national liberation and people's revolution. That has been the consistent stand of the Chinese Government."

"In our opinion," he said, "despite the recent occurrence of some incidents of assassination and hijacking by a few people, we should never allow imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and Zionism to use such incidents to vilify and suppress the national-liberation movement and people's revolutionary struggles. For that reason, the Chinese Delegation has from the outset opposed the inclusion of the question of so-called international terrorism in the agenda of the General Assembly."

Pi Chi-lung denounced the Israeli Zionists for openly vilifying, at the current session of the General Assembly, the Palestine Liberation Organization as a "terrorist organization" and heaping abuses on the Arab countries which support the Palestinian people's struggle. He condemned the Portuguese colonialists for making, under the pretext of opposing "terrorism," an outcry for the "general and unconditional" repression of the national-liberation struggle of the peoples of

Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau), and for brazenly demanding that provisions be made to this effect in legal form. He also denounced the South African white racist regime for vilifying as "terrorism" the South African and Namibian people's struggle against apartheid and for national independence, and for indicating their intention to resort to "all means at their disposal."

Pi Chi-lung said: "If one is to talk about international terrorism, the imperialist aggression against and oppression of the people of various countries, the U.S. imperialists' wanton bombing in Viet Nam, the Israeli Zionist slaughter and persecution of the Palestinian people, the brutal colonial domination of the African people by the Portuguese, South African and Rhodesian colonialist authorities and their crimes of racism and apartheid constitute large-scale terrorism in its true sense. The struggles of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples and of the African peoples for the achievement and defence of national independence are just struggles with the active participation of the broad masses of the people, and are not terrorism at all. On the contrary, those people are the real victims of terrorism. On the question of so-called terrorism, whoever slanders the Palestine Liberation Organization, abuses the Arab countries for their support of the just position of the Palestinian people and vilifies the revolutionary struggles of the African peoples, is trumpeting and supporting terrorism here. The Chinese Delegation definitely cannot agree to any condemnation under the pretext of opposing 'terrorism,' which is actually directed against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples as well as the African peoples."

"With regard to the adventurist acts of terrorism carried out by a few people divorced from the masses," Pi Chi-lung said in conclusion, "the Chinese Government has all along taken a serious and responsible attitude and dealt with them properly in the light of different circumstances. This is a fact known to all. In our opinion, the handling of such problems falls basically within the sovereign right of the country in which the incident occurs. If necessary consultations and co-operation are required among the countries concerned, they should seek a reasonable settlement on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty. We cannot agree to the forcible imposition of measures detrimental to state sovereignty in the form of an international convention."