

Fifty Years of Workers' Rule

THIS YEAR, 1967, will see the fiftieth anniversary of the great Socialist Revolution in Russia of November 7th, 1917, an event which decisively changed the entire course of human history.

There were not many, in 1917, who really appreciated that the Russian Socialist Revolution was an event of a completely different type from all the great historical events of the nineteenth century which had overthrown feudalism, to replace it by capitalism. For the first time the masses of workers and peasants had taken the destinies of a great country, occupying a sixth of the earth's land surface, into their own strong hands. They proposed, under the brilliant leadership of Vladimir Lenin and his comrades, followers of Karl Marx, not only to institute formal democracy, but to dispossess the capitalists and landlords and advance into the then unknown territory of a new stage of history—Socialism.

Their experiences and their success has already changed the shape of the world, has profoundly affected the future of all peoples and will continue to do so in the future.

No one in Africa or anywhere else can understand our world and its problems without studying the background and consequences of the Russian Socialist Revolution.

In view of the importance of this anniversary, it is our intention to devote as much space in coming issues as possible to reviewing the implications of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and in particular its significance for Africa and the fight for national liberation in the South of our Continent.