

*Transformation  
of state apparatus  
the goal of  
Armed Forces  
Movement*

Party of the *Inter-Syndicale*, with backing from certain military groups, that touched off the powder-keg. But behind this decision by the Socialist Party lay the threat of institutionalization of popular-based organizations, recommended by the Armed Forces Movement with a view to nothing less than a basic transformation of the bourgeois structures of the state apparatus.

Furthermore, this institutionalization plan made no mystery of its objectives, and stated that it would progressively substitute for the existing framework a popular-based apparatus that would control all the levers of power and sanction the predominance of popular organizations associated with the armed forces. In other words, the frequently-heard slogan "AFM-People's Alliance", promoted through the offices of the Fifth Division and by "cul-

tural dynamization" teams, imperiled the existence of political parties, be it with the Socialists.

Thus the battle had begun, and was going on. From this point on, the Portuguese army is no more, but rather as a number of factions, each vying for the free will of civilian support.

Ultimately, the question to be determined here is whether the Portuguese society of the future, which has been in the process of creation since April 25, can better — so far as it wishes to — find a new alternative to a people floundering under under-development — ensure its progress through the slow processes of reform, embodied in the principles of parliamentary democracy or through the brutality of revolution, with all its excesses and its uneven triumphs.

### *UN's seventh special session*

## Turning-point in dialogue with developing countries

By David S. Wright

It is now several months since the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly completed its work. That session will be judged by, and its impact felt through, a change in the climate for dialogue between rich and poor countries and for negotiation on the issues of a New Economic Order rather than the specific language of its omnibus resolution. The language agreed upon at the special session is important, but represents a point in time on a continuum of events. This vocabulary will gradually, issue by issue, be overtaken by subsequent action. The nature of such action may, however, be determined in large part by the atmosphere generated by the seventh special session. If it is, the seventh special session will prove to have been an important turning-point in relations between developed and developing countries.

Negotiations at the seventh special session were carried on in a far more effective manner than those of the sixth special session in April 1974. At the earlier session, unreasonable ultimatums put forward by radical members of the Third

World were met with stiffened determination on the part of some industrialized states not to concede positions on virtually all the major issues. The result was a standoff and a lack of consensus, a declaration and program of action adopted without a vote but without the political will to implement on the part of those in the best position to do so. Any euphoric reaction to the result by members of the Group of 77 (now approximately 100 developing countries) gave way in time to a realization that such paper victories were indeed if they did not produce concrete benefits for developing countries. It was argued at the time that, by alienating some of the most powerful developing nations, the Third World had done more harm to its cause.

### **Productive negotiations**

At the seventh special session, more reasonable demands by developing countries and a more forthcoming approach by developed countries, and serious and productive negotiations were all in evidence.

*Atmosphere  
generated by  
special session  
will determine  
future action*