

# Eritrea in Brief

**Workers' Advocate, Volume 9, Number 5, June 1, 1979**

(The following article is excerpted from Eritrea In Struggle, newsletter of Eritreans for Liberation in North America, Vol. III, No. 3, February-April 1979.)

The characteristic features of the present political and military picture in Eritrea are that while on the one hand, the Ethio-Soviet aggression goes on unabated, on the other, the so-called leaders of the Eritrean revolution continue on the road of open capitulation to the Soviet revisionists, and this in spite of the deep hatred the masses have and their unshakable will to drive the Soviet aggressors out of the homeland.

Having accomplished the target of their second offensive (the recapture of the city of Keren and the Asmara-Massawa highway) by December 1978, the Ethio-Soviet aggressors have since been conducting their third offensive with the aim of recapturing the major towns in the Sahel province and hence to drive the liberation fighters out of the main base area. Thus, lately they have concentrated their main military activity in this area. Repeated attacks are being launched from both the city of Keren and the Red Sea. Soviet transport and warships have been busy landing heavy weapons and thousands of troops along the northern coast of the Eritrean Red Sea. Aerial bombardment by Soviet and Cuban flown Soviet MIGs in this area has also become increasingly intensive. As a result of these barbarous actions of the enemy, thousands of people forced out of their dwellings are taking refuge in the hills and thousands more are crossing the Sudanese border.

In the towns and villages they have recaptured, the Soviet and Ethiopian aggressors have tightened their fascist grip on the people. Through both deceptive and suppressive measures, they are trying to pacify the masses. In Asmara, the capital city of Eritrea, in particular, fascist reprisals against the civilian population is mounting. Dead bodies of innocent persons are found scattered in the streets of Asmara and other cities every morning. The Ethiopian occupation troops have made the raping of Eritrean women their daily practice. Another tactic

through which the Ethiopian and Soviet aggressors are enforcing their fascist rule on the people is by forcing them into so-called mass organizations similar to those fascist organizations set up in Ethiopia. All the people are literally herded into the so-called Kebele associations of their respective zone where they are intimidated. Thus it is under such a horrifying condition of Ethio-Soviet aggression that the Eritrean people are living today.

Not surprisingly, however, the imperialist press has conspired to collude with the Soviet revisionists in suppressing information of the unprecedented Soviet aggression. Further, the failure of the so-called leaders of the Eritrean revolution to expose the Soviet and Ethiopian aggressors has facilitated this conspiracy. Today, the Ethiopian occupationists are flatly declaring that "there is not as such an Eritrean problem. " Applauding to the "big Ethiopian victories in Eritrea" are also the revisionist press with those of the Soviet Union in the forefront. The bourgeois press in the West is also echoing this counter-revolutionary propaganda by reporting that the Eritrean struggle is "crushed".

At a time when the Eritrean revolution, confronted by such multifaceted attacks of multiple enemies is passing through such a difficult stage, what are the "leaders" of the revolution doing? Except the hypocrite statement condemning Soviet aggression issued by the EPLF leadership, all the press statements, official organs and resolutions of the so-called leaders are still prettifying the revisionist Soviet Union and its puppets as socialists and strategic allies. The Cuban mercenaries, instead of being condemned as aggressors are defended as innocents. During the height of Soviet aggression in December 1978, which saw active Cuban participation, the EPLF leaders stated "no Cuban presence had been observed. We are not denouncing their presence, because we have not seen them, even though they were indeed present in the first offensive, in the summer" (L'Unita, December 1978). They made this astonishing statement while at the same time they were admitting that there were over 3,500 Cuban troops in Eritrea (Liberation News Service, January 12, 1979). And now they praise the Cuban mercenaries for pulling out of Eritrea. And Michael Kahsai, member of the EPLF's central committee told Reuters on March 2, 1979 "all Cuban forces have been pulled out of Eritrea." How

can such an apology for an enemy which has committed untold crimes on the people be explained? Is this what is expected from someone who claims to be the leader of the people? No sober minded person can respond in the positive. This is how the so-called leaders are obstructing our people's struggle against the primary enemies.

Today, the Eritrean people are confronted with enormous difficulties in their just cause for national independence and democracy. While the external enemies have deployed all their forces to crush our people's just struggle, the traitors are giving a helping hand to the enemies by working from within. Notwithstanding these difficulties, however, our heroic people persist on their undaunted resistance. A hatred against the Soviet revisionists is growing strong among our people. Despite their repressive measures, the Soviet and Ethiopian aggressors have been unable to easily rule our people and are meeting stiff mass resistance. Defiance to the capitulationist line of the so-called leaders is beginning to take a mass character. Thousands of fighters have already rejected the leaderships of the two fronts. Several opposition forces are also coming to the fore. The number of underground publications denouncing Soviet revisionist aggression and the treacherous leaders is also increasing. The spirit in Eritrea is therefore the traditional and militant "we will fight to the end." The statement the Eritrean Independence Block made 30 years ago in front of the United Nations that "the Eritrean people will never accept Ethiopian domination" remains imprinted in the mind of every Eritrean.