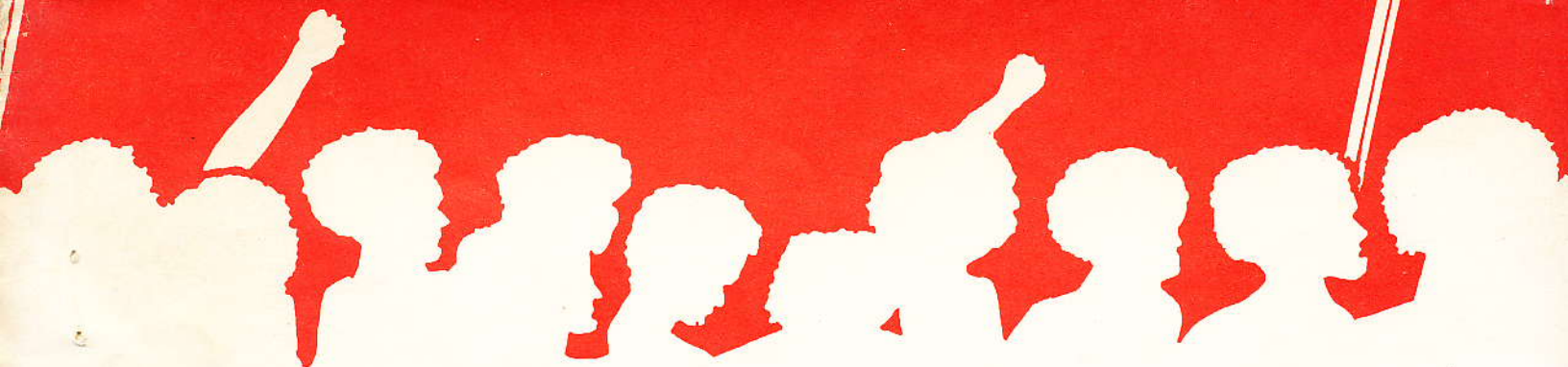


#6  
August '76

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ABYOT



● *information bulletin  
of the ethiopian peoples' revolutionary party*

● *bulletin d'information  
du parti révolutionnaire du peuple éthiopien*



Car Hunt

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\* ABYOT ABYOT ABYOT \*\*  
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Vol 1/no. 6

ON AUGUST 3], 1976 THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY PARTY  
CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY -THE PASSING OF A YEAR OF STRUGGLE  
SINCE IT PUBLICLY DECLARED ITS EXISTENCE BY DISTRIBUTING ITS PROGRAM.

<u>IN THIS ISSUE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
THE TOTTERING REGIME OF THE DERG	1
ON THE EXECUTION OF MAJOR SISAYE AND OTHERS	2
AMERICA MASSIVELY ARMS THE JUNTA	5
JUNTA ZIONIST RELATIONS WARM UP	6
JUNTA PROCLAIMS NEW FASCIST LAWS	
JUNTA SENDS FIGHTER PILOTS TO KENYA VS. UGANDA	7
STRUGGLE OF THE WORKERS AND OPPRESSED MASSES	8-11

Postal workers strike, Lazaridis cotton factory  
workers strike, Metahara sugar factory workers  
beat up managers, land reform officials condemn  
junta, EWCC vows to fight on, oppressed soldiers  
struggle, soldiers in Eritrea refuse to fight,  
paratroop units rebel, clandestine publications  
by soldiers.....

REPRESSION AGAINST THE MASSES HEIGHTENED 12-14  
arrests, executions, inhuman treatment of prisoners,  
disarming of the peasants, new prison, villages burnt...

JUNTA CAMPAIGN VERSUS YOUTH 14

WAR DRUMS IN THE HORN AND EAST AFRICA-WHO GAINS? 15

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+The reactionary intellectuals led by Haile Fida have supplied the Derg with the list of 150 militants targeted for liquidation.

+ Among the recently arrested progressive individuals figures the former governor of Kaffa, Aba Biya.

+ The junta has set up a "Peace Commission" for Eritrea whose moving personality is none other than Tesfaye Tadesse, a well known chauvinist and suspected CIA agent with field experience in Beirut and Khartoum.

+ William Schaufele, assistant secretary of state for African Affairs declared on August 7 that the Derg is "not anti-American but is only trying to be socialist". In the place of anti-American read "anti-imperialist" and you can see that Schaufele is not revealing any secret the Derg is not anti-imperialist!!!!!!

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## THE TOTTERING REGIME OF THE DERG

THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY has consistently affirmed that the regime of the Derg is terribly isolated, fascistic and inherently anti-democratic. For all those who had the common sense and the conviction to see through the regime's demagoguery and the apologist press, it was/is clear that the Derg is wobbling on its feet and is clinging to power only due to the backing of US imperialism and the use of brute force against the popular masses. Events since May Day have proven the EPRP's affirmation and pointed out that the popular demand for the establishment of a popular provisional government is the only solution to get the country out of chaos by giving power to the masses.

The Derg's problem, which started the day it took over power and even first when it constituted itself and moved objectively to perpetuate the exploitative system, are insoluble and immense. Its demagoguery, its radical rhetoric, its blind repression have not succeeded to arrest the mass struggle. In the cities and the rural areas, the class struggle rages on. It has put out fascistic laws curtailing all democratic liberties, it has outlawed strikes (punishable by death "in serious cases"), made contact with the EPRP a fatal "crime", arrested and executed countless militants. But the defiant struggle of the proletariat and poor peasantry, as well as that of the democratic petty-bourgeoisie, continues unabated. The EPRP is getting stronger more and more. The forms of combat of the masses are diversifying and deepening. The contradictions within the Derg itself are exploding violently and manifesting themselves in bloody purges. The democratic movement of soldiers is gaining strength.

The Derg has led Ethiopia into a political and economic chaos that has never been seen before. It has crowned terror as its demagoguery, which was supposed to have been improved by the Haile Fida group of pre-fascist intellectuals, fails miserably to confuse the masses. Within the present context of a developing, rich, complex and difficult revolutionary process in which the EPRP is assuming the vanguard role, the neo-colonial regime of the Derg is doomed.

## THE REASONS FOR THE EXECUTIONS OF "19" Persons

On July 13, the military regime announced that it has executed "19" persons. Among the executed figured Major Sisaye Derg member and chief of the Political and Foreign Affairs commission, General Getachew Nadeu, military governor of Eritrea, seven individuals accused of "economic sabotage", seven others accused of "leading the country into a bloodbath" (actually a junta monopoly!), two of taking "bribes" and one for "selling state secrets".

To begin with all evidence points out that the number of executed goes up to 75-81 of whom many were arrested workers, students, etc. secondly one is obliged to go deep into the reasons for these executions as the junta is a known liar and as it has a habit of mixing leftists and rightists and executing them together under the label of "counter revolutionaries".

The execution of Sisaye manifests the instability that grips the Derg even at such a high level of its power-holders. Though Sisaye, a well-known rightist, was rumored many times to be in the process of preparing a coup d'etat, it seems unlikely that he actually attempted one as the Derg wants to make us believe. Sisay's fate was sealed when he came out in open (in a latest Derg meeting) and uncompromising opposition to the alliance between Major Mengistu (chief of the Derg) and the Haile-Fida left intellectuals grouped around the "All-Ethiopian Socialist Movement", a reformist outfit. Thanks to the backing of Major Mengistu, the Haile Fida clique not only started a purge within the military and the bureaucracy but was filling these vacant posts with its own loyal people. As ministers, political commissars, directors, executives of the powerful "Peoples' Organising Office", the Haile Fidas were becoming a threat to Sisay and his group. Their Peoples' Organising Office was making his political commission powerless. They were sending his elements within the Derg to foreign countries on the flimsy pretext of "political education courses" (Sisaye's assistant, lieutenant Bewketu Kassa, refused to go Moscow for such an education and is now hiding).

Major Kiro member of the Derg and reactionary head of the "zemetcha" (Campaign of students to teach in the rural areas), was also opposed to the Haile Fida group.

There is no doubt that Major Sisaye was a trusted man of the Americans. When Kissinger visited Kenya, Sisaye talked to him for three hours in the Nairobi Continental Hotel. No doubt they must have discussed the chronic instability of the Derg. America, which plays a double game of fully supporting the Derg and also trying to stabilise it via a coup from within it was no doubt sympathetic to the Major. All in all then, Sisaye's elimination is a victory for the Haile Fida group who have utilised the occasion to continue the purge of all the elements opposed to them. Within the Derg itself, the contradictions sharpen and become concretised between the colonel Atnafu and Major Mengistu groups.

In fact, it is reported that the seven civil servants executed under the charge of leading the country into a bloodbath are pro-Atnafu elements. All are Gejjame Amharas, and Atnafu (who is from Gejjam himself) have been known to use regionalist sentiments to find backing for himself. Reports of other pro-Atnafu elements are also coming in.

The death of General Getachew Nadeu seems to have been precipitated by his support to the demand of soldiers in Eritrea who refused to fight and called on the Derg to find a peaceful solution. In fact, the general had brought such a message to Addis Abeba prior to his execution. Though politically a rightist, he was claiming to support the soldiers' demands. As to the other seven who were executed on charges of economic sabotage (for having hoarded kilos of red pepper) were added to the list of execution for colour. Some of them were mere guards of stores, one was an old man who rented a store to a merchant, one other was the son of a merchant who had escaped. These people, whom the Derg presented as rich traders were so rich that a collection of funds has been initiated at the Mosque in the market area for their bereaved and destitute families! The person executed for "selling state secrets" was an unemployed who had earlier been demoted (from Major) and expelled from the Army by the Haile

Sellasia regime for no other reason than for having sold secrets of the state to a foreign country?

Considering the frequent executions that the Derg carries out from time to time (openly and in secrets), it may seem justified to think that it consults a witchdoctor who advises it to engage in such a practice to exercise all problems! However, these executions are dramatic affirmations of the intense problems that the Derg faces. It is gripped with a developing mass struggle that in turn fuels and accentuates the internal contradictions of the Derg itself. Sisaye's execution may give space to Major Mengistu but it is a poisoned atmosphere. The latitude of manoeuvre is restricted by the masses who have entered the political scene with conviction and unity since February 1974 and are NOT at all disposed to assume secondary roles. The mounting repression against the masses show that the Derg's so-called programme has failed, it means that its alliance with the traitorous intellectuals led by Haile Fida has not brought it any solace. It means that we shall witness more executions in the near future as a result of the internal power struggle of the Derg.

Unlike the reformists, we do not have worries or nightmares speculating as to whether it will be the body of Major Mengistu or that of colonel Atnafu that will be riddled with bullets. We shall continue the struggle against the whole fascist batch and imperialism. If we have anything to add to this it is to caution the progressive world about the practice of the junta of killing known reactionaries together with revolutionaries and labelling the whole of them as "counter revolutionaries". In november 1974 (when it executed feudalists along with more than six democratic soldiers and officers), when it executed Tadesse Biru and student leader Melese Tekle, recently in Agare when it killed militant Zematch student along with feudalsists, the junta has shown its sly manoeuvre to cover up its anti-revolutionary actions and dupe the international progressive forces. Such forces, who should expose and attack the repressive junta, need to remain vigilant.

## US IMPERIALISM MASSIVELY ARMS THE FASCIST MILITARY JUNTA

Earlier reports by the ERRP have now been confirmed by the American press. The Derg is receiving 200 million American dollars worth of modern weaponry from America.

Writing about this on July 6/1976, the Washington Post stated "the biggest arms deal of the US (in Africa that is - ABYOT) is with Ethiopia. where the United States is selling on a cash and credit basis two squadrons of F-5E jet fighters and one of F-5As, several dozens of heavy M-60 tanks, three to six C-130 transports, an early warning radar system an unknown number of armored personnel carriers and several anti-tank weapons. In effect Washington has committed itself to re-outfitting the Ethiopian Air Force and army."

The arms are continuing to arrive in Ethiopia.

Now it is very clear that America, machiavellige as it is, will definitely not put itself in a position where it will arm massively a "socialist government". The facts are that the Ethiopian junta is firmly pro-America whatever it may say in one of its periodic demagogic fits. It is also indicative that America seems generally unperturbed by the dominant position that the Haile Fida clique is gaining.

The junta and Ethiopia fit into the American strategy for the control of this strategic and volatile region. Washington considers the Derg a useful ally that will help keep the Red Sea within the American orbit. The same worry that pushes America in the formulation of its policies towards the Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Spain, Portugal also etc) and the Red Sea area countries (be it Djibouti, Somalia or even Yemen and beyond) are at work in its attitude towards the unstable and unpopular Derg. It is not by accident that America, which since its set-back in Angola, has concentrated its aid to a selected few (Kenya, Zaire South Africa) considers Ethiopia a key to its African policy. Given the whole situation it is clear that whatever misgivings America may have about the durability of the Derg it is not likely to abandon it. It is sure that it will try to stabilise the Derg in one way or another.

### JUNTA-ZIONIST RELATIONS DEVELOPING

We have commented upon the fact that the junta has been discreetly but firmly developing its relations with the Tel Aviv Zionists. Following the reports that Israeli officers were training the anti-revolutionary ~~Rebel~~ Brigade in the Awash valley, the junta has taken other actions that show its pro-zionist options.

\*On July 6 newspapers in Tel Aviv commented that without the help of Ethiopia and Kenya, the aggressive raid on Entebbe (Uganda) wouldn't have succeeded. The gratitude of the Zionists stems from the fact that the junta knowingly allowed the Israeli planes to overfly the Ethiopian airspace.

\*Our own sources also reveal that a squadron of Israeli fighter jets were stationed in Harar Meda (in South-Eastern Ethiopia, near the Somali border) in case of any emergency complications during the Entebbe raid.

\*In recent clandestine publications, oppressed soldiers within the Air Force and the army have revealed that a number of Israeli military officers have reappeared in bases and camps as "advisers".

The relations between the fascist Derg and the Zionists are expected to intensify and diversify englobing economic, military and intelligence gathering fields.

### THE DERG PROCLAIMED YET ANOTHER FASCIST LAW

On July 5, 1976 the junta proclaimed yet another penal law amendment that clearly confirmed its fascist nature. Publicised as a law against "economic sabotage" (a crime for which the derg is the primary culprit!) the amendment is surely destined at legalising the intensified repression against revolutionaries and the popular masses. As for the bourgeoisie neither the laws nor the Derg's disposition are going to affect it in any radical manner.

A closer look at the fascist law manifests that the Derg's real



preoccupation is the repression of the EPRP and the mass movement.

The July 5 penal law amendment makes the following crimes punishable by a rigorous imprisonment of 5-25 years or, "in serious cases", with life imprisonment or DEATH:

\*anyone who affects the output of state owned farms or industries by sabotaging the machinery by pushing workers to strike, or by any other means;

\*anyone who refuses or creates the refusal of peasants and workers to be organised according to the Derg's proclamations;

\*anyone who contacts, sympathises or supports any of the anti-people organisations inside or outside the country.

\*anyone who attempts or leaves the country without permission.

It is quite clear that the junta wants to outlaw strikes completely, it wants to make all contacts with the EPRP a serious crime (for the junta the EPRP is an anti-people organisation!). It wants to impede all manifestations of opposition by the workers and peasants. While it has been clear that the workers and peasants do not want (and have resisted) to be organised under the junta's proclamations (which are undemocratic and bureaucratic and contrary to the autonomy of the mass movement), the junta now makes this refusal a crime and hopes that it can break the opposition of the masses. However, the intensified mass struggle against the fascist junta asserts quite the contrary and makes it clear that volumes of penal law amendments or tons of bullets will not save the junta from its inevitable doom.

#### JUNTA SENDS PILOTS TO KENYA TO FIGHT UGANDA

The fascist military junta not only collaborated with the Zionists in their terrorist aggression against Uganda but it has now dispatched a number of Air Force pilots to Kenya to help this country in case it goes to war against Uganda. Aside from the fact that Ethiopia and Kenya have a Defence Pact (oriented against Somalia) there is no doubt that US imperialism must have pulled some strings in Addis to solicit this aid to Kenya!

## STRUGGLE OF THE PROLETARIAT AND POPULAR MASSES CONTINUES UNABATED

### POSTAL STRIKE PARALYSES THE COUNTRY

Defying the fascist law that makes strikes punishable even by death and protesting against the anti-worker actions of the Derg, the Postal workers of Addis Abeba went on a strike and paralysed the country's postal services.

The strike was called by the workers because the junta forcefully reinstated six employers that the workers had, through a unanimous move, dismissed from work. Not only that, the junta arrested around 10 worker leaders who were in charge of the Discussion Groups (a forum established by the junta but which has been turned by workers into an anti-junta discussion group) of the postal workers.

### COTTON FACTORY WORKERS GO ON STRIKE

Workers of the Lazridis cotton factory also went on a strike demanding a series of economic and political changes.

### SUGAR FACTORY WORKERS BEAT UP ADMINISTRATORS, STRIKE REPORTED

The workers of the Metahara sugar factory (owned by the state and the Dutch company-NVA-which when expelled by Sukarno from Indonesia brought its ware to Ethiopia) protested unfair labour conditions, state and management collusion, repression against their union, lack of freedom, etc. Arrogant and reactionary managers were beaten up by the militant workers. Though unconfirmed (as we write this), it is reported that the workers have decided to go on a strike. The scarcity of sugar has, nonetheless, become quite acute in the capital Addis Abeba itself.

### LAND REFORM WORKERS OF SHOA DENOUNCE THE JUNTA

The land reform workers of Shea administrative region have passed a resolution denouncing the junta's anti-people actions. As a result, the junta has stepped up the repression against them. The junta's intellectuals are spearheading the repression. By passing such a bold resolution that openly exposes and denounces the fascist junta (that demagogically claimed to be for land reform), the land reform workers have dealt a big blow to the facade of the fascists and the apologists.

ETHIOPIAN WOMEN COORDINATING COMMITTEE DENOUNCES JUNTA VOWS TO FIGHT

The Ethiopian Women's Coordinating Committee (EWCC) has been arbitrarily dissolved by the fascist junta and the Haile Fida led intellectual clique. The EWCC despite its numerical, financial and other limitations, had proved to be a militant autonomous organisation of oppressed women who were interested in setting-up a nation-wide Women's Association. By dissolving the EWCC, the Fida clique strives to set-up a puppet women's association that will be tied to the fascist junta and the state.

The EWCC has issued a statement denouncing the junta's anti-women and anti-mass organisation action and condemned the traitorous intellectual clique which is spearheading the offensive against the popular organisations. The EWCC vows to continue the struggle and has called on oppressed Ethiopian women to double their struggle against the fascist and chauvinist junta. The clandestine paper published by revolutionary women DIRIB TAGAYWA, has condemned the junta's action and called on women to intensify the clandestine organisational work.

MASSES IN JIMMA REFUSE TO DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF JUNTA'S POLICY TOWARDS ERITREA. MASSES OF HARA DISTRICT IN WOLLO REFUSE TO MARCH ON ERITREA.

OPPRESSED SOLDIERS AND DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS INTENSIFY THEIR STRUGGLE

The democratic movement within the armed forces, though weak, is developing in a promising manner as latest events indicate. It is to be noted that on May Day soldiers of Jijiga (in Hararghe) had openly and defiantly distributed a tract denouncing their chief officer and affirming their solidarity with workers, poor peasants, etc. Others had refused to repress demonstrators. The repression amidst the soldiers is quite brutal. As a result, the work of democratic elements has been met with difficulty. However the growing dissatisfaction of soldiers and the gap that is widening between the Derg and the armed forces as

a whole is opening up new prospects. As a result secret study groups -- are mushrooming in various army units, and attempts to coordinate these is being made. An example of this is the publication of the first issue of the clandestine paper. "OPPRESSED SOLDIER" which denounces the anti people junta and its politics of divide and rule. The paper calls on all soldiers to join the camp of the revolution and turn their guns against the junta and imperialism. OPPRESSED SOLDIER is intended to be a paper around which the various secret groups within the armed forces will coordinate and unite their actions.

The struggle of the democratic soldiers revolves around political and other issues that are particular to soldiers. Soldiers are refusing to fight the junta's war in Eritrea, they are calling for an end to the repression of the oppressed masses, supporting the demands of the popular masses. At the same time soldiers are struggling against the stifling oppression they suffer in the hands of officers, the absence of any democracy within the armed forces, their incapacity (by law) to belong to any party etc.

#### CLANDESTINE PAPER OF THE AIR FORCE DENOUNCES JUNTA

Democratic officers of the air force, along with progressive soldiers have distributed new issues of their clandestine paper, VOICE OF THE AIR FORCE, in which they denounce the junta's policies at the national level and affirm their support to the EPRP and the struggle of the oppressed masses. The paper denounces the junta's war-mongering policies and reveals that numerous American and Israeli military officers have reappeared in force in the airforce bases. The democratic officers and soldiers denounce the junta's divisive tactics (it tells them that the masses are rebelling because they are jealous of the military!!) and affirm that they will struggle to integrate their efforts to that of the EPRP and the popular masses directed against the junta and imperialism. The paper denounces the Haile Fida group which collaborates with the fascist junta.

### AIR FORCE PILOTS IN HARAR MEDA REFUSE TO FLY

Recently, when Teferi Benti chief of the military regime went to Harar to attend the graduation ceremony of cadets of the Harar Military Academy air force officers refused to fly jet fighters as part of the official ceremony. This refusal was a manifestation of the officers opposition to the Derg. Following this Major Mengistu (chief of the Derg) rushed to negotiate and calm down the officers. The situation remains tense.

### Paratroop Soldiers stage a Rebellion"

The situation within the paratroop soldiers is becoming tense. To begin with, those who were in Eritrea refused to fight and called on the Derg to find a peaceful solution. As a punishment many of them were transferred to Bale (near the Somali frontier). In Bale their agitation against the Derg is continuing.

Following the incident in Harar concerning air force officers, units of the paratroop surrounded the Air Force base at Debre Zeit and called on the Air Force officers and soldiers to unite with them in an open rebellion against the Derg. The paratroop soldiers clearly expressed their demand - an end to the Derg's regime and the establishment of a popular provisional government. The Derg immediately dispatched tanks and loyalist troops and, before the air force units decided one way or another, a fighting ensued between the Derg's soldiers and the paratroopers. Many of the latter were arrested while many others escaped. The situation remains heavily preoccupying for the Derg.

### SOLDIERS IN ERTREA CONDEMN WAR ONCE AGAIN

Soldiers in Eritrea have once again informed the Derg that it must find a peaceful solution and end its war activities against the Eritrean masses. In fact the soldiers handed this firm demand of theirs to their commanding general Getachew Nadew when the latter was called back to Addis Abeba. Getachew was executed along with Major Sisaye and it is reported that his support for the soldiers' demands sealed his fate.

REPRESSION AGAINST THE POPULAR MASSES INTENSIFIED BY THE JUNTA

The intensified struggle of the masses in the urban centers and the rural areas, the growing contradiction between the Derg and the armed forces, the incapacity of the reformist intellectuals to solicit support or gain a social base of stability for the regime, the failure of its proposed march on Eritrea, the undeniable strength of the EPRP, etc have put the Derg into a state of frenzy. Like a mad dog it attacks all and sundry and carries out a day to day repression in almost all the corners of the country.

The EPRP has through various communiquees and through the columns of its organs DEMOCRACIA and LABADER, as well as through the pages of ABIYOT documented the barbarian actions of the fascist Derg. At present, the repression continues but has been intensified to a high level especially since May Day and since the Derg realised that its so-called programme for the revolution and call for a united front has not succeeded to hoodwink anyone. The growing repression of the Derg is an act of desperation. The reformist intellectuals led by Haile Fida and Senay/likke share this desperation and haven't now supplied the junta with the names of 150 revolutionaries targeted for liquidation.

\*more than 1000 Zematch students who marched on the capital's municipality demanding work have been arrested and whisked to concentration camps and prisons. (July 16)

\*the repression against teachers has become particularly violent and the number of arrested teachers has risen to 350 (by July 17)

\*the Derg and the reformists have concentrated their repressive machinery on the following.

\*Workers of the Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit (CADU) in Arussi, workers of EPID (organisation for the development of farming methods), the workers of the agricultural development unit of Wolayta (WADU), land reform officials like that of Shoa etc...

areas where the Derg's repression has been intensified are Kaffa,

part of Illubabor, Arussi, Wollo, Sidamo (especially in Wolayata, Kembatta Derassa), Bale, Wollega (especially in Kelem province), Shoa (especially in Haikoch and Butajira, Yifat and Timuga, Chebo and Gurage) and Tigray. Though the repression in these areas has been accentuated, almost all the remaining administrative regions are affected by the junta's repressive actions.

\*Following intensified struggle by workers, especially since May Day and since the junta forcefully suspended the meeting of the Industrial Unions on June 2 the arrest within the ranks of workers has increased. In the last month, the factory that has been extremely affected has been the Indo-Ethiopian Textile factory at Akaki.

\*In Jimma (capital of Kaffa, western Ethiopia), numerous workers who participated in the May Day anti-junta demonstration have been rounded up. In Agaro a massacre of peasants, workers and students has been reported.

\*in Wolliso (Shoa) troops led by the notorious Major Getachew Shibeshi continue the house to house search and arrests. A Zematch student was the latest victim—he was shot in his bed by the troops.

Through out the country the repression goes on in an unprecedented scale. Prisons and military camps are full of inmates, so much so that the Derg is building a new and big prison camp to supplement the one already built in the Ogaden desert.

The repression against the masses is multi-form. Arrests and mass executions are alternated with disarming of the peasantry (as in Sidamo) and secret executions. Inhuman treatment of prisoners (in Kaffa, prisoners have been forced to drink a mixture of mud and urine) and torture are frequent. Threats and dissolution of mass organisations, the creation of an atmosphere of fear and terror by saturating the country with informers are some of the forms of the repression. Peasants who refused to comply like the peasants of Hara district in Wollo who refused to march

against the Eritrean masses have seen their villages burnt to the ground and their kinfolks massacred. The nauseating daily barrage of fascist and reformist demagogy and lies is unbearably repressive. Progressive elements continue to be killed along with die-hard feudalists who lacked the common sense to arrange an understanding with the supple Derg.

Thanks to the despicable police work being done by the traitors led by Haile Fida, the Derg is moving in a brutally energetic manner against the revolutionary elements. It has concluded, just like the reformists, that without the destruction of the EPRP it cannot have peace and stability. Hence the latest intensified drive to "break the EPRP."

#### THE JUNTA-FIDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YOUTH

With the guidance of the reformist scums filling the junta bureaucracy, the Derg has stepped up its campaign against the students and the Zematch (campaigners). All its attempts to divide the youth having failed miserably, the junta has been forced to admit that the militant youth is totally and firmly opposed to it. While it arrested more than a 1000 zematch on July 16 (they were guilty of asking for work!) it staged a demagogic ceremony on the morrow to officially close the Zemetcha which has unofficially and firmly been closed by the students by the Zematch majority and the junta had to fill the ranks with police, district committee elements and others in order to make believe that thousands of Zematch demonstrated in peace and euphoria. On the contrary, thousands of Zematch are bitterly against the Derg's regime. Scores of them have been liquidated by the Derg, thousands are in prison. Hundreds of them are in exile living an existence that is full of suffering and humiliation. (On July 5, the junta made fleeing into exile a crime punishable by imprisonment or death!) As we wrote in the last ABYOT (no. 5) the zematch students have set-up their own clandestine anti-junta union and are firmly in the camp of the revolutionary forces.



WAR DRUMS IN EAST AFRICA WHO DRAWS THE ADVANTAGE?

Washington is massively arming Iran and Saudi Arabia and assuring its control over the gulf area, it is using Israel and Syria to partition Lebanon or at least to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Left and to subsequently impose its pax-Americana in the Middle East. Through Spain, Morocco and even Portugal it tries to keep its power over the Mediterranean area intact. In the same way and in a very much connected way it is arming Kenya, Zaire and Ethiopia in a massive way to maintain its interests in the area.

The region called the Horn of Africa and East Africa is highly strategic in terms of Africa and the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East. The Red Sea and the Bab-el Mandeb are important for the power that wants to control the route of the oil tankers and the situation in the region. Without them free passage through the Suez canal will be a myth. This consideration has been in the center of America's policy decision concerning the area.

Following the Entebbe raid by the Zionists, tensions have mounted between Kenya and Uganda. The two countries have reached the brinks of a dangerous war. America, England and Ethiopia are firmly on the side of the senile puppet in Nairobi; Idi Amin fulminates and raves and his barbaric regime is so hated by the people that he is justifiably scared that the masses will not fight his war or that such an occasion may give good opportunity to some other military men who surely must be contemplating a coup d'etat. At the same time, the approaching referendum in Djibouti has heightened the tension in the Horn of Africa. The forced resignation of Ali Aref opens up a path but it hardly brings any solution. The Derg is preparing to go to war against Somalia over Djibouti; the recent manoeuvre by the Ethiopian army 30 miles off the border with French colony is not a mere routine exercise. Hence a war between Somalia and Ethiopia is not to be excluded and the international significance of such a war (one is armed by America and the other by the Soviet Union) is not difficult to imagine.

The Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party has already through a communique made its stand clear by condemning the reactionary regimes of Kenya and Uganda and by calling on the masses to frustrate the war-mongers. A war between Kenya and Uganda will be a war to the advantage of Imperialism it will be a help to the reactionary forces. The revolutionary class struggle in both countries will be affected, the chauvinism that is being fanned will be a long-standing obstacle for the unity of the oppressed masses on a class basis.

At the same time the peoples of Djibouti must be given the full right to determine their destiny by themselves, colonialism and its puppets : must be eliminated the future of Djibouti is something that can be decided only by the masses themselves free from ANY outside interference. Both Ethiopia and Somalia must renounce hegemonistic claims. Not only that, if they go to war over Djibouti it will be an act that will be detrimental to the revolutionary process and class struggle in the area, it will be against the aspirations of their masses in their respective countries and in Djibouti itself. As such, the EPRP stands opposed to all outside interference in the affairs of the Djibouti peoples (Afar and Somali) and will stand opposed to any war that may ensue between Ethiopia and Somalia. In this respect, the EPRP condemns firmly the fascist military junta that is preparing, in accordance with colonialism and US imperialism, to unleash war against the peoples in Djibouti and the fraternal masses in Somalia.

The combined efforts of the revolutionary forces in the region and elsewhere is required to frustrate the imperialo-reactionary plan that will create hotbeds of war and lead to the further enslavement of the masses in the region. Such localised wars serve the merchants of arms and death-the imperialist powers. Such wars help them to destroy revolutionary movements in the region and to divert the class struggle. The only war that the masses in the region must fight must be the class war against the local reactionaries and imperialism.