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ABYOT



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

“the philosophers have only interpreted  
the world in various ways. the  
point however is to change it.”

marx



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"We are anti-feudal, anti-imperialist and anti-communist."

Dergue Sept. 1974

"The mind of the Ethiopian youth is poisoned by an imported, cheap, foreign philosophy."

Dergue Dec. 1974 in a reference to Marxism.

## E D I T O R I A L

### THE MENGISTU-HAILE FIDA CLIQUE : WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

The nature of the blood-thirsty fascist regime is all the more important. We are not, of course, questioning whether or not the regime is fascist; but what it really is, which forces do support it and as a result, what it is doing both internally and at the international level.

As a result of the February 3rd coup; not only is the attempt from within the Derg to ease the tension has terminated but also the confidence of the very Dergue members on each other and as a result mistrust among them reigns supreme. The other Dergue members, who are not in the Mengistu clique; do not only know that their rights have totally been discarded but also the fact that obedience to Mengistu has become the certificate to stay alive. He has finished off all his leading opponents from the Derg, forced the rest including Atnafu to capitulate to him, thereby emerging the only powerful man in the state. Mengistu is not ruling alone, but with the aid of a deceptive political guidance by the Haile Fida clique staffed in the so-called "Peoples' Political Office." As a result, we have a fascist dictatorship by the Mengistu-Haile clique.

What we are witnessing today, is extreme isolation of Mengistu and his clique from the rest of the armed forces. The Dergue that took power by sheer force "on behalf of the armed forces movement", after a long evolution of internal struggle, does not **actually** exist today. It ceased to exist ever since it was replaced by absolute one-man dictatorship as a result of the February 3rd coup. The Dergue, as a body, had clashed with all oppressed classes. Mengistu did not only intensify this extreme antagonism, but has also abolished



all rights of free expression and debate within the Dergue thereby emerging as an absolute autocrat. That is not all; the mere fact that Mengistu has reinstated the reign of terror that the Dergue had earlier stopped gradually, increased the hatred and opposition to Mengistu and the support to EPRP. Consequently, the social base that the Dergue was vainly attempting to get was thrown overboard by Mengistu. All the neutral elements and even those who gave to the Derg their passive support were all pushed by the terror on the side of EPRP. Even at the level of propaganda; Mengistu accused the crafty wing of the Dergue and the mummy General Teferi of being EPRP members, of attempting to form a provisional people's government which helped the masses to affirm the fact that Mengistu is evermore determined to suppress the popular demands of the masses and the fact that the only way out is the popular demands of the masses and the fact that the only way out is a popular armed resistance. That is why the punishment actions undertaken by EPPA against political criminals are fully endorsed by the popular masses. As a result, the elements that support Mengistu are the Haile Fida clique of social-fascists calling themselves "All Ethiopian Socialist Movement", an Ethiopian version Duce Mussolini's remnants in Italy, Movimento Socialista Italiano; the feudo-bourgeois bureaucrats, other "rehabilitated" feudo-bandits and their children who have obtained high government posts. Though the armed forces are largely obedient to Mengistu due to the insufficient organizational strength of the revolutionary soldiers; there are still open oppositions to Mengistu. Mutinies, just like pre-February days are beginning to take place. It has already started in Bale and continued in Keren, Eritrea. In February, as well, the armed force's mutinies started in Negelle (Sidamo) and continued to

Eritrea.

Internationally, Mengistu is still dependent on US imperialism. Despite the talk by Carter to "cut aid to Ethiopia on grounds of violation of human rights" and the fanning of the bourgeois press that the regime in Ethiopia is turning towards East European countries; America remains the main supplier of arms to the junta. Mengistu has not even abrogated the unequal treaties the country entered with US imperialism under Haile Selassie. The infamous and neo-colonialist Mutual Defence Pact Agreement reached between the governments of the US and Haile Selassie in 1957, 1960 and 1963 respectively is still intact. The main essence of the matter is the fact that Ford's or Carter's administrations did not like the relative autonomy that the Dergue and Mengistu practiced/practices as a result of the revolutionary pressure by the masses from below. At the level of superstructure, the Dergue or Mengistu were forced to subscribe to rhetorics of "anti-imperialism", "Ethiopian Socialism", "nationalisations", "land reforms", and so on. (But, one has just to remember what these staunch anti-communists said after the overthrow of Haile Selassie. They said that they ARE ANTI-COMMUNISTS and accused the students for being duped with "Alien ideology" called Marxism.) That was not liked by US imperialism. Major Sisay, one of the top America's boys in Addis Abeba, was said to have been criticized for this by the hangman Kissinger when they met in Nairobi, Sisay leading the official Dergue delegation to Kissinger. Of course, no matter how much the monopoly bourgeois Carter may try to pretend as populist and be "concerned" of human rights, the fact remains as we said, that it is not on "grounds of human rights violations" that Carter "cut" the military aid to the Dergue because Carter still arms the Zionists in Israel, who have denied the Palesti-



nian people not only their human rights but even their right to live in their homeland. Carter has not even reduced aid to the hangman Park of South Korea. Had the issue been the violation of human rights, "Angel Carter" would have been the first not just to suspend US support to the criminals of EDU, who are still responsible for the death of half a million people by famine, but also to finish them off. The truth is, however, US imperialism indirectly supports EDU through a third country.

On the other hand, Talcot W. Seelye, assistant secretary of state for African affairs in the US state department recently visited Ethiopia from February 24-25. The visit of Seelye to Addis Abeba, as part of an African tour that included Somalia, has very big significance as far as the recent deterioration of relations between the junta and its neighbours. The visit was intended to give chance to the American official to directly confer with Mengistu's officials on the question of relations between Ethiopia and Washington. It is to be noted that the US is closely watching the developments in Ethiopia. It was reported that state department officials have been disappointed by the regim's incapability to destroy EPRP and stabilise itself. The overtures of Mengistu with the Soviet Union is also a case of worry for the US. However, all information indicates that the US is still that can stabilise the regime in one way or another. The US is continuing its contacts with the EDU feudalists. An increasing number of officers have been sent to the US for various forms of training including anti-insurgency. The latest batch is enrolled in Fort Eustace.

Nevertheless, no matter how much Mengistu and others may talk, the fate, direction and goal of the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia is determined by none other than the very motive

forces of the revolution, the broad masses of Ethiopia. Mengistu and others may lie, they may label our party as a "CIA agent" or collaborator of EDU, they may accuse us of anything and put all the lies down; but, the Ethiopian masses, who are the decisive forces of the revolution, would never listen to them let alone believe them; because as the popular Chinese saying goes:- "A thousand lies written in ink cannot hide a single fact written in blood."

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#### EPRP COMMEMORATES ITS 5th ANNIVERSARY

EPRP commemorates its fifth anniversary the coming 9th of April, 1977. Delegates from many Marxist-Leninist organizations, groups and circles met from April 2-9, 1972 in a founding Congress and formed the EPRP.

After a laborious deliberation on national, regional and international issues, as well as internal organizational matters, the Founding Congress formed the EPRP. The Congress elected the Central Committee; the polit bureau as well as the other departments of the party were also elected. The first two years passed in a completely clandestine work among the workers, students, teachers, peasants and women. Organizational and political work among the masses was intensified just prior to the break out of the February revolution. The party came out in correct democratic and revolutionary slogans in the wake of the revolution.

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## H O M E N E W S

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH  
LEAGUE (EPRYL)-EPRP'S YOUTH WING DECLARED

The Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Youth League (EPRYL), that was formed two years ago in February has recently been declared. The formation of a communist youth league of our party marks a milestone in the development of our revolution on the one hand, and the maturity of the youth movement that had been inspired by the heroic Ethiopian Student Movement on the other.

The Ethiopian Youth have displayed one of the most fascinating heroism, extraordinary maturity and seriousness that is unparalleled with the experience of any other country. The Ethiopian Student Movement, one of the most conscious, militant and serious youth movements in the world, had played an extremely important role in the struggle of the Ethiopian people at large and the February revolution of 1974. The student movement had many times wrecked the feudo-bourgeois regime of Haile Selassie to its very foundation. It had produced martyres among it. The Ethiopian youth movement has, however, passed to a very important stage. The most advanced elements of the youth from all walks of life have been organized and formed their own communist organization, the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Youth League, EPRYL.

EPRYL is the youth wing of EPRP. It has the sacred objective of engulfing the heroic youth in the revolution and train and prepare future party members amongst its ranks. Eversince its formation, EPRYL, has sacrificed many of its dedicated members to the revolution. Many of its members have been killed or executed. In the mass execution of November 2&18, '76 and the last execution of February, many of its members sacrificed their lives for the revolution. The more martyrs dedicate their lives as victims of fascism, the

more dedicated young comrades join the revolution in their thousands thereby intensifying and developing the struggle. At a time when fascism boasts of "finishing off" the "anarchist youth", EPRYL held its national congress in Addis Abeba just before its declaration. On the day of declaration the capital, Addis Abeba, and other towns were reddned with the hammer and sickle emblem and posters of EPRYL and EPRP.

THE "GREAT EXPLOITATION" - 2 MILLION IN 30 MINUTES

We know that capitalism exploits the working class ruthlessly. But, in Ethiopia, proletarian revolutionaries are more "ruthless" than the bourgeoisie. There was no relation between the bourgeoisie and the revolutionaries in production when the revolutionaries launched their "Great Exploitation project" in Addis Abeba on February 10.

In downtown Addis Abeba, urban fighters of the EPRA raided the Addis Abeba Bank and liberated about 2 million Ethiopian dollars (+ 900,000 US dollars). In a well-organized operation, that took just half an hour, EPRA fighters liberated the peoples' money from the big bank of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie for the purpose of the struggle of the people. The bank, situated just near the Mosque in the new market area, was heavily guarded by police and troops mounted on jeeps. The miraculous operation ended without bloodshed and even any clash as the "rich" EPRA fighters rode away peacefully.

REPRESSION ESCALATED

Mengistu's and Haile Fida's regime has announced that the search for arms in the capital will start again. Moreover, assassination of students, workers and teachers is being carried out in broad day light, prisoners are being executed en masse; workers, students and teachers are being



assassinated everyday in all parts of the country. In one week alone, February 26-March 5, five hundred democrats and revolutionaries have been brutally murdered. (This figure does not, of course, include those killed from the feudal warlord army of the EDU in Begemdir.)

#### 44 Political Prisoners Secretly Executed

On February 26, 1977, 44 of the 470 political prisoners held in the Special Security Police Station were secretly executed a few kilometers out of the capital, Addis Abeba. The prisoners were all between 17-25 with the exception of one revolutionary, who was 40. The youngest of them was Fikru Yosef, 17, who was a student in the Makonnen High School in Addis Abeba.

Friday the 26th of February was execution day. Things went as usual until 4 P.M., when the chief guard ordered the prisoners to be in their cells. However, the prisoners knew that if they were ordered to be in their cells at 4 P.M. and had dinner early; then that is a day of execution. Dinner was served early; and nobody was allowed even to go to the toilet. The guard called the names of those prisoners to be executed to make sure that they are there. Knowing what was going to happen, those whose names were called started to make speeches for the rest of the prisoners. They condemned the fascist regime and pledged their support to the revolution. At 8 P.M.; the notorious sergent Teshome, the chief guard, called 45 names. A few meters away stood the blood-thirsty Dergue member, Major Yosef, flanked by another Dergue member, Captain Eshetu and two soldiers carrying sub-machine guns. He had another list of the same 45 names. Each prisoner was called, one by one, as the hangman Major Josef put a thick mark at each name.

The prisoners were then beaten. Their hands

were tied up backwards against their feet passing the tight rope through the mouth thereby pulling the head backwards. Then, they were thrown into the prison truck like dead bodies. The prisoners started to sing revolutionary songs and chanted slogans condemning the regime and pledging support to the EPRP. They chanted, "EPRP is our party!", "Fascists will be crushed!", "Victory to the Assim-ba Peoples' Army!" Many of them were again taken out of the truck for more beatings. After a while, they were thrown into the truck; but this time they were wounded either by bayonets or knife cuts. Their bodies were all stained with blood. One of the prisoners, Comrade Osman Ahmed, still continued chanting slogans. The fascists silenced him by hanging him right in the truck!

The prison truck, escorted by more than three American Three Quarters and Jeeps started to move. The prisoners shouted as the truck run down through the city saying that they were being taken to be executed with the last hope that people would know about their fate. As the trucks went leaving the capital in the background, few of the prisoners could manage to unfile themselves. They broke the windows and started to jump out of the truck. The fascists opened fire. One out of the 45 could manage to escape. The rest were all executed. After a few minutes of silence, a tractor started to bury the dead in such a way that the bodies would never be found out as in the case of the 60 bodies that were uncovered by hyenas in Wollo.

The following are 41 of the 44 executed are: Girum Seyfu, Tesfa Limeta, Tesfaye Zewdu, Messele Debalke, Solomon G. Tsadik, Ayalneh Asmamaw, Tessema Diressa, Kassu Kemma, Fikru Yosef, Ayehu Birhan Demeke, Hailu G. Kiristos, Tibebu Abebe, Tsegaye H. Michael, Teshome Asrat, Bekele Merine, Ashenafi Zeleke, Getnet Yemane, Haile Mariam Kassu, Sisay W. Mariam,



Getahun Mekonnen, Fikadu Gameda, Worku Habte Wold, Belayneh G. Mariam, Abayneh Kidane, Ousman Ahmed, Bilal Mohammed, Dereje Fideha, G. Tsadik Berehie, Daniel Habtu, Getu Tegegn, Bisrat Dibaba, Mohammed Mesud, Mammo Belay, Demisew Bizuwork, Birhane Yeshitila, Yhualashet Shewtatek, Endale Haile, Abayneh Hunegnaw, Abiy Merge, Kassahun Negash, Alemayehu Andualem.

#### 25 Workers of the Cement Factory Executed

On the 25th of February, the leader of the Addis Abeba Cement Factory Workers' Union was assassinated by the assassin squad of Colonel Mengistu. The next day, February 26th, Nebelbal troops surrounded the factory at 5:30 in the afternoon. They were being led by a certain Mekonnen of the Haile Fida social-fascist "All Ethiopian Socialist Movement".

Large scale beatings against the workers were carried out. Out of the hundreds of beaten up workers assembled in the grounds of the factory, 25 were called out and were taken away. They were all executed at 8 P.M. the same night the 44 young revolutionaries were brutally murdered.

#### Latest Reports

In Gimbi, another 30 young people were also condemned to "revolutionary punishment" (read execution) by the Mengistu-Haile clique. It is believed that they are all executed by now.

On February 13, nine young people were shot dead and many others wounded when Nebelbal troops opened fire on young people assembled for a zonal committee meeting in zone no. 14 in Addis Abeba. The rest of the young people were taken away in 3 big army trucks to an unknown place. The parents of the victims tried to rescue their sons and daughters, but were met with

Nebelbal fire in which one of the parents was killed right there.

On February 14, Nebelbal troops opened fire on a crowd of people who were lined up in a queue to see the Chinese revolutionary film "From Victory to Victory". Many of the people were arrested.

On February 11, a student in Akaki Beseka was assassinated by the Haile Fida assassin squad. He was taken out of his classroom and was shot dead in the street. He was a son of a militant worker in the Indo Textiles.

In Assela, 360 young people have been arrested for having supported EPRP and taking part in a pro-EPRP demonstration. Similar mass arrest was also carried out in Wolkite. But, the heroic inhabitants of Wolkite raided the police station by force and freed their sons and daughters.

On March 15, other 22 students from the Addis Abeba Technican School have been arrested for being supporters of EPRP.

#### EPRP CONTINUES PUNISHING POLITICAL CRIMINALS

EPRP continues to punish political criminals, who unleashed the most inhuman killings and repression on revolutionary democratic forces and innocent civilians. The punishment includes close collaborators of the regime, who actually commit both political and actual crimes against workers, youth, parents and others for the sake of their own personal and sectional counter-revolutionary interests. The punishment have been warmly welcome by the masses. The punished are:

- Tewodros Bekele; a well-known fascist boot-licker, who tried to sell the interest of the workers to fascists in power who made him chairman of the non-existing "All Ethiopian Trade Union", and



for being directly responsible for the execution, assassination and arrest of workers and their union leaders.

-A reactionary plant in the Kerchele Sefer zonal committee in Addis Abeba. This thug was responsible for the secret execution of other 44 young revolutionary pioneers.

-A leader of the Haile Fida assassin squad, who worked as chairman of the zonal committee in Gedam Sefer, Addis Abeba.

-Kassahun Ambaye, the notorious social-fascist, who worked as commissar of Haile Fida's political office in Awassa. He was responsible for the death of countless revolutionaries.

-Alemayehu Mekuria, zonal committee leader in Adama ("Nazareth"), who caused the death and arrest of countless militants, both workers and youth in Adama.

-Major Negussie Tuji, a Dergue member, who was chief of the political police in Wollo. The repression and counter-revolutionary killings and assassinations of revolutionary, democratic elements and innocent civilians is enormous in Wollo. The repression has been escalated ever since EPRA started to operate in Wollo.

-Getachew Tdesse and Megersa Geleta, and three other social-fascists from the Shoa office of the so-called political office, who were also directly responsible for the death and arrest of revolutionaries in their localities.

-Bekele Aredde; a notorious zonal committee chairman.

#### NEW APPOINTMENTS BY THE MENGISTU-HAILE CLIQUE

In yet another major reshuffle, the Mengistu-Haile clique reshuffled some of its ministers and other officials and made quite a number of new appointments. The major ones are the following: Tereffe W. Tsadik, referred as "Doctor", replaced the notorious Haile Gebriel, a well known anti-teacher and anti-people bureaucrat. Tereffe W. Tsadik is a well known social-chauvenist, who justified the suppression of the Metcha And Tulama Dromo nationalist movement and who consistently stood as an ardent anti-Eritrean. As a stooge of Haile Fida, he had attempted to divide the militant student union in Holland. Tereffe, who was referred as "Doctor", without having completed his studies in the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, was a notorious intriguer that he once was involved in one of the most disgraceful academic scandals by passing examination papers to a certain Daniel Kinde in a deal that the latter would collaborate to disrupt the Ethiopian students' union in Holland. Tereffe was then assistant lecturer.

-Colonel Feleke G. Chiorghis replaced Kifle Wodajo as foreign minister after the latter refused to return after a tour to neighbouring Tanzania.

-Yayehrad Kitaw; commissioner of higher education. French-educated, he is a well-known stooge of Haile Fida.

-Desta Tadesse replaced Tsegaye Debalke as permanent secretary of youth, sports and culture. Desta is a notorious social-fascist.

-Aklog Birara: as manager of commercial bank. He is also another social-fascist and a close associate of Senay Likke. He is well-known in his reputation of stealing money. He is among the Senay Likke gang that stole 10,000 US dollars from the Ethiopian Students' Union in North America., in 1971. He has got "his place" now.



- Assefa G. Mariam: permanent secretary in the ministry of Justice (read injustice). He is an old reactionary.
- Teffera Wolde Semayat: minister of Finance. He is an old reactionary who served the Haile Selassie regime as commercial attache in the Ethiopian embassy in Washington.
- Baalu Girma replaced Tesfaye Tadesse as permanent secretary in the ministry of information. He is believed to have contacts with the EDU.
- Ibsa Gutema: permanent secretary in the ministry of communications.

#### INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY IN ADDIS

It is customary that the International Working Women's Day is marked on March 8 each year throughout the world. The Mengistu-Haile clique, however, changed the date to March 1st and called a rally at the Revolution Square on the basis of two slogans, "To Defend The Motherland From Aggressors!" and "To Protect The Motherland From Reactionaries!" It was announced that only these would be the slogans to be carried by the marching women. However, the valiant Ethiopian women, following the example of the class conscious proletariat that turned the designed white May Day to Red May Day, also carried slogans that are extremely popular and supported by the broad masses of the people. The heroism displayed by our daring women illustrates the determination of the revolutionary women movement in Ethiopia. Placards that were carried by these heroines include: "The Genuine Vanguard of the Proletariat is EPRP!", "Unrestricted Democratic Rights to the Broad Masses!", "Equal Pay For Equal Work!", "We Will Crush Force By Force!", "We Condemn the Repression Against the Youth and Women!", "Lift the Ban on the Ethiopian

Women Coordinating Committee!", "Women Organizations Will not be a Tool of Petty-bourgeois Women!" "Leave the Zonal Committees to the Broad Masses!"

They also sang revolutionary songs as they passed in which they openly praised the "Red Banner in Assimba!", the popular reference to EPRA that made Mount Assimba its base. They also chanted slogans for people's democracy and proletarian dictatorship.

#### BANDA INTELLECTUALS CHASED AWAY BY PEOPLE OF WOLLO

Bandas were those Ethiopians who collaborated with the Italian fascists during the fascist aggression of our country. Today, this name is given to those opportunist and traitorous intellectuals who are collaborating with Colonel "Craziani" Mengistu and his fascist regime. Now, these bandas are being chased away from many parts of the Country by the revolutionary youth, workers and peasants.

Wollo, that paid the biggest toll during the Great Ethiopian Famine, is now one of the hot red bastions of EPRP. The youth, workers and peasants are chasing away the bandas from many parts of Wollo. The Red Flag of EPRP is still waving on top of one of the hills that encompass Dessie, the capital of Wollo. The EPRA is active there.

In another development, the Ethiopian troops disseminated throughout Tigray to "wipe out" the EPRA, are systematically avoiding clash with EPRA units who are widely operating in Tigray, Wollo and Begemdir. In one incident, however, the fascist troops could not stand the EPRA that caught them in a surprise ambush, called for air support as usual. EPRA fighters suddenly changed positions and disguised as government troops when the planes came. The planes then bombed their own soldiers in which many were killed and wounded. The pilots who carried the operation were arrested for questioning. As a result of EPRA's brilliant political and military victories



in many parts of Tigray, government troops are abandoning many of their posts, a lá Eritrea, to avoid "The Assimba devils(!) who have won the hearts and minds of the Tigray masses." The troops are concentrating in the garrison town of Adigrat; their number has exceeded 3,000 in Adigrat alone.

"EVERYBODY" and "EVERYTHING" Supports Mengistu

According to Radio Addis Abeba

There was a time when fake "demonstrations" in support of Mengistu were put up accompanied by a lot of fanfare. Now, the Mengistu-Haile clique has started the most self-exposing and shameful mock shows. Radio Addis Abeba continuously broadcast news claiming support for Mengistu is coming from all corners of the country and from all people of all walks of life. They have mentioned all sections of the population; workers, peasants, teachers, students, women and so on... as their supporters.

All the while, no mention of prisoners as their supporters was indicated. Recently, Radio Addis Abeba claimed also that "prisoners have expressed their support to Colonel Mengistu". Fascists lie anything under the sun if they think that would prolong their days. But, the notorious and stupid fascists in Ethiopia have passed that limit to include all sorts of nonsense even a child cannot believe. "Prisoners expressed support" to the very person who threw them into jail is at best a fantastic lie. They also claimed that workers in Humera, those who heroically fought against the forces of EDU when the Mengistu garrison refused to give them arms, "expressed support to Mengistu." We wait until they tell us that EPRP has also expressed support to this monster!

BERISSA, PAPER IN OROMIGNA, TAKEN OVER BY JUNTA

The military junta has announced that it has taken over the only semi-autonomous weekly Oromigna, Berissa. The paper pursues an open pro-junta line.

Berissa, despite its avowed intention of following an open pro-junta line, was found too "threatening" by the junta due to the initiative implicit in its semi-autonomous character. Now, the junta forbade the publication of BERISSA. Months later, after DEMOCRACIA (EPRP's official organ) started publishing in Oromigna, BERISSA animators appealed to the junta to put out a semi-autonomous weekly to which the junta was responsive and BERISSA appeared as an independent paper.

Who is behind BERISSA? Casting aside the claim that the man behind BERISSA is none other than the notorious opportunist and social-fascist Baro Tumsa, a top official within the so called "people's political office". Baro Tumsa and his clique (consisting of such reactionaries as Megersa Beli, former deputy administrator of Bale; Abiyou Geleta, the current governor of Wollega, Colonel Teka, security chief of the junta, and so on ...) launched BERISSA in order to use it as yet another card for their bargain with the Derg to allot them further bureaucratic power. Baro Tumsa has a long history of betrayal and devious work against the OROMO and other oppressed Ethiopian masses. While claiming to be a nationalist of the narrowest type and thus subverting nationalist elements, he, at the same time, serves faithfully the junta and uses his connections with nationalist groupings to further his own personal cause. He has also organized reactionary feudalists and bureaucrats on "nationalist" grounds and enhances his "prestige" as an important personality. A committed opportunist and reactionary, he has played a cruel role in the death of the late Tadesse Biru. He has also split another nationalist grouping and facilitated the decimation of one by the Dergue. Together with Haile Fida, he launched a denigrating campaign



against Oromo democratic elements who work with the EPRP; An enemy of the oppressed masses, Baro has fingered at several Oromo revolutionaries within the EPRP and caused the death of a few of them. As a byline, he produces an anti-EPRP paper called "Netsanet", and supervises the publication of another anti-EPRP and pro-junta trash called "WARRAKA".

The aim of this despicable character and his publications such as BERISSA, NETSANET, and so on are to sell the junta as a progressive force and to condemn EPRP. The latest criminal action of this Baro clique was the trick he played on certain Oromo fighters from Bale and his partially successful attempt to reconcile them with the junta. Using BERISSA, the pro-junta intellectual dogs intend to confuse and subvert the struggling Oromo masses. Reducing the national question to a superficial and reactionary machination of printing a pro-fascist paper or allowing one hour programme over the radio, the Baro Tumsas, Haile Fidas, Kedir Mohammeds and their ilk dream that they can stop the raging class struggle of the Oromo masses. It is thus, quite understandable, if these scums identify their position on top as meaning that the "millions of Oromos are ruling!" It is exactly what Amhara rulers wanted the Amhara masses to believe. And in post-February Ethiopia, such non-sense has no future. BERISSA, as a consequence, will fare no better than ADDIS ZEMEN.

#### THE FICTION OF "VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS"

One of the methods used by the Haile Fida clique to fight the EPRP is to make it appear that there are many organizations and opposition groups to the junta and that EPRP is just one of them and the most extremist one at that. At the same time, by propagating this fiction,

this abhorrent clique wants to create fake "parties" and "groups" that will eventually "rally" to the Dergue. One main characteristic of all these "groups" is their ferocious attacks against the EPRP. To hoodwink the public, some of them mildly "criticize" the Dergue or even at times Haile Fida!

All these "groups" are known by their "clandestine" publications. Below, we identify the persons who put out these papers and it is evident that they are the same pro-fascist intellectuals, who have organized this deceptive division of labour in order to fight the EPRP and the oppressed masses.

1. "Voice of the Masses"- put out by Haile Fida and his group whose leading members are all stuffed in the junta's political office. The paper is out as organ of the so called "All Ethiopian Socialist Movement", Movimento Socialista Etiopico.
2. "Shimut"- edited by Negede Gobezie, a notorious feudal scribbler, a leading member of Haile Fida's political office.
3. "Woz"- written by Ermias Dagne, a chauvenist follower of Senay Likke, Dr. Teferra Wonde (minister of Health) and Gililat G. Mariam.
4. "Netsanet"- published by Baro Tumsa, member of the junta's political office.
5. "Warraka"- published by Baro Tumsa and his followers.
6. "Revolution"- by Hailu Gerbaba (Haile Fida follower and present political commissar of Wollega, who caused the death of countless EPRP sympathisers), Eyob Tadesse.
7. "Red Flag"- published by a special body of Haile Fida's clique with the task of attacking the EPRP "from the Left", presenting themselves as the "Communist Party of Ethiopia". The group has been identified and smashed.

#### JUNTA IS "LOOKING INTO THE BACKGROUND" OF CIA GODLEY

Following the intense exposure made by the EPRP concerning the accepted nomination of the butcher Godley as the US ambassador to Ethiopia, the fascist junta has rescinded and asked for further "clarifi-



cation" from the US government on the backgrounds of this world-known assassin. Could it be that they really didn't know Godley from the outset? The point is that the Mengistu-Haile clique needs another less exposed person to serve as Washington's man in "socialist" Ethiopia.

#### ERITREA: VICTORY AFTER VICTORY

The border garrison of Karora and the town of Naqfa, capital of one of the eight districts-Sahel, fell to the EPLF guerrillas. The E is also continuing to engage and rout the Dergue troops in various localities.

With the greater part of the Eritrean territory falling under the control of the liberation fighters, the Dergue is barricaded within the confines of its own garrisons in a few towns and Asmara. The dream of military victory has been frustrated and the morale of its troops is at its lowest as manifested by their increasing desertions. The notorious butchers of the Nebelhal (Flame) Division have not bettered the junta's lot and thus will continue to submit to severe defeats.

Furthermore, the junta's slick attempts to isolate the Eritrean revolution externally has not met with success. Its plan of winning over selected Arab countries has not materialised. At present, it finds itself at loggerheads with the Sudan.

Amidst such victorious march, the liberation fighters, EPLF held its first Congress inside the field of Eritrea. The Congress attended by representatives from many localities of Eritrea with the presence of foreign delegations and newsmen, passed important political resolutions, among which is found the rejection of the junta's

"peace offer". The Congress resolved further that the EPLF would go to the negotiating table only on condition that the junta respects and recognized the right of the Eritrean peoples to independence and other preconditions. Most important is the fact that EPLF would not go on for any negotiation WITHOUT the ELF.

The so-called commission for Eritrea set up to implement the junta's nine point "peace plan", which is composed of former agents of Haile Selassie and compradors, is bogged down. Hence, the junta and its "experts on Eritrea" like Tesfaye Tadesse, Haile Fida or Birhanu Baye, can neither win militarily for politically. In actual fact, even within Ethiopia, both Colonel Mengistu and his advisors are cornered by the onslaught of EPRP and the Ethiopian masses.

The Eritrean fighters are on the offensive and are assured of a bright future. The bitter struggle waged by the masses for more than 15 years and the immense sacrifices that they paid for their right to independence is close to bear the desired results. To assure this, the EPRP believes that the principled unity of the Eritrean liberation organizations and the strengthened cohesion of the democratic and revolutionary forces is imperative.

#### SOLIDARITY ACTIONS CONTINUE

Khartoum: The Ethiopian Students' Union in the Sudan recently held a mass rally in Khartoum University in support of the Ethiopian revolution led by its authentic vanguard, the EPRP; and to condemn the fascist regime of Colonel Mengistu and Haile Fida, and to expose the feudal bandits calling themselves EDU.

In the rally, where thousands of people assembled, full exposure of the fascist regime and the feudal warlords was given. The situation in Ethiopia, the strength of the revolution, the undisputed vanguard



leadership of EPRP was fully explained by the students. Those exposed and condemned include three agent provocateurs of the one time "Communist Party of Ethiopia", Workneh Cherinet, Dawit Yohannes and Genenew Assefa.

SWEDEN: THE Ethiopian Students' Union in Sweden, which is a member of the World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students, held a manifestation on March 4 to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the February Revolution and to introduce further the EPRP. Present were representatives of many progressive organizations in Sweden. The students gave full explanation about the Ethiopian revolution, EPRP's role in leading the national democratic revolution, the history of the student movement.

HOLLAND: The Ethiopian Students' Union in Holland together with the Committee Ethiopia in Holland organized a political manifestation on March 11 in Amsterdam to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the February Revolution. The students exposed the fascist reign of terror unleashed by the fascist regime. They denounced the EDU feudal bandits and called for all organizations to condemn the Dergue and EDU. Speeches were delivered by both organizations, the union and the committee, in which they both called for support to the Ethiopian revolution led by EPRP and the Eritrean peoples' struggle led by the ELF and EPLF. Over 400 people unanimously passed a resolution condemning the fascist brutalities of the Mengistu-Haile clique and warmly hailing the achievements of EPRP and EPRA.

USA: The Ethiopian Students' Union in North America (ESUNA) and the Ethiopian Women Study Group in North America (EWSGNA) have conducted a massive campaign against the fascist regime for the last few months. They have had mass meetings, demonstrations and seminars in many

parts of the United States.

ESUNA and EWSGNA held a seminar in Washington D.C. on March 13 to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the February Revolution. They also organized a mass meeting on March 18 in Boston. Full explanation about the situation in Ethiopia was given; they exposed the fascist regime and the EDU and called for support for the Ethiopian revolution led by EPRP. Present were many organizations on both occasions among which is the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

#### JEAN ZIEGLER: Swiss MP Sends Cable of Condemnation to the Junta

Jean Ziegler, the Swiss Labour member of parliament, has sent a telegram to the junta condemning its reign of terror. Jean Ziegler is the author of a popular book in which he revealed the mystery of the workings of finance capital in Switzerland. The following is the full text of the telegram:

Deeply shocked by the information arriving in Europe concerning systematic use of torture, mass execution and arbitrary arrests used by the military government of Ethiopia against trade unionists, students, democrats who struggle peacefully against repressive order of military rule. I do express my firm opposition to the authoritarian rule of military dictatorship. I ask the military authority to allow free speech, free right of demonstration, habeas corpus and free elections for sovereign assembly.

#### POPULAR LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF DJIBOUTI GAINS STRENGTH

The democratic and revolutionary liberation organization, the MPLD, staged a massive demonstration in Djibouti on January 30, 1977 to protest the round-table Conference on Djibouti organized



by the French colonialists sometime in February. The MPLD demands that the conference be held on a neutral country under the auspices of the OAU. The MPLD, which regroups both Afars and Issas (Somali) revolutionaries, is a revolutionary organization that is gaining more and more popular support. Its revolutionary line has made it a target of repression by the colonialists and other puppets. The bourgeois press, understandably, refrains from mentioning the MPLD while it gives wide coverage to puppet groupings like the so-called Djibouti Liberation Front. The MPLD fights for the real independence of Djibouti and is opposed to colonialism and neo-colonialism.

#### IRAN'S INCURSIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The fascist regime of Shah in Tehran, which is continuing to amass huge quantities of sophisticated weapons in order to repress and liquidate the revolutionary movement in Iran, the Gulf and even in the Horn of Africa, has stepped up its secret and open collusion with reactionary African states.

Reports reaching us affirm that a select team of Iranian officers has been attached to the zionist-unit that is training the anti-revolutionary Nebelbal division. In addition, the Ethiopian junta has called on SAVAK (the Iranian Political Police) to render it help on intelligence matters. It is to be remembered that a secret memo presented by the political office to the Derg advised on the advantages of using Iranian trainers instead of using Israelis whose presence "will intensify the anti-Ethiopian actions from the Arab countries."

Iran, which has shown interest in the evolution of the situation in Djibouti, envisages to play a major role in the Red Sea area. On the

other hand, a Sudanese military delegation led by the defence minister is visiting Tehran and holding talks.

#### ZIONISTS AND BRITISH OFFICERS TRAIN SUDANESE MAHDISTS IN ETHIOPIA

ABYOT has learnt that the Mahdists being trained secretly in Ethiopia's Begemidir province are being instructed by a team of Ethiopian, Israeli and British officers.

Primarily, the Sudanese force were being trained in the Ruwyan and Gundwa areas. It is said that their present camps are located in Metema area relatively far from the Ethio-Sudanese border.

The Mahdists, supported by Libya, have been trying to oust the Nimeri regime. In turn, the Nimeri regime is helping the EDU (The Ethiopian Mahdists) in their counter-revolutionary aims.

#### VOICE OF THE EDU FEUDAL BANDITS STARTS BROADCASTING

Given by the Sudanese government a half-hour programme over Radio Omdurman (Sudan), the EDU feudal bandits have started to broadcast their reactionary ravings to Ethiopia. They call their banal cry "Voice of Liberation and Free Ethiopia!", a la the CIA "Radio Free Europe" as if free Ethiopia is synonymous with feudal supremacy.

Starting their daily programme on February 24, the EDU vipers openly showed their total reactionary nature and their bankruptcy. Their propaganda was totally pathetic and showed how incapable they are of understanding the objective fact that the Ethiopian masses are opposed to feudalism and will fight to the death any feudal royalist restorationist attempt. Their call to the Ethiopian people to "wake up" is as reactionary as that of the fascist junta which alleges that it will serve as a waiting-nurse for the masses till they "wake up". And all this as if the people did not drive the feudal



dogs to exile and gave nightmares to the ruling fascist thugs! Voice of the EDU vomits utter filth calling on priests and all Ethiopians to struggle against the junta. The Ethiopian masses have risen up against the fascist junta and they know that there is nothing like "all Ethiopians." They know that feudalists who head the outfit called EDU are their enemies. They know that EDU's claim to fight for democracy is a sham. Feudalists are not democrats and we all know who Mengesha, Nega, Iyassu and Birhane Meskel Desta are. We also know that EDU's claim to be leading the mass struggle throughout Ethiopia (they shamefully claim to be leading the armed struggles in Tigray, Begemdir, Wollo, Harrar, Bale, Sidamo, etc..) is an outright lie that may fool others but not the Ethiopian masses.

It is one more affirmation of the desperate situation in which these feudal bandits find themselves in. Neither a radio programme of lies, nor forced conscription of poor refugees, nor the forced taxation of exploited exiled Ethiopian women workers, nor the singing of the counter-revolutionary royalist song "Lomi Tera Tera", is going to save them from their doom. Their present survival is thanks to the objective collaboration of the fascist regime of Colonel Mengistu which helps them not only directly (Mengistu is still ready to unite with **them** in case the situation gets worse for him, which will definitely be ) but also indirectly by repressing the peasants by denying them democratic rights and power.

The EDU bandits are trying to draft a new political programme that will present them in brighter colours. The programme is expected to be a hotch-potch of the constitutions of some European countries, the programme of the Dergue and so on.

Latest reports: EDU feudal bandits entrenched

in Kenya have started to emigrate to their favourite country, United States.

After having deliberately abandoned the people of Humera to the feudal forces, the fascist regime has now started wholesale bombing and machinegunning of the area and has forced numerous innocent villagers to flee to the bush for the Sudan

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USEFUL QUOTATIONS FROM  
LENIN

"And what is a state? It is an organization of the ruling class - in Germany, for instance, of the junkers and capitalists.

"..... Now try to **SUBSTITUTE** for the Junker-capitalist state for the landowner-capitalist state, a **REVOLUTIONARY-DEMOCRATIC** state, i.e., a state which in a revolutionary way abolishes ALL privileges and does not fear to introduce the fullest democracy in a revolutionary way. You will find that, given a really revolutionary-democratic state state-monopoly capitalism inevitably and unavoidably implies a step, and more than one step, towards socialism!

"Either we have to be revolutionary democrats in fact, in which case we must not fear to take steps towards socialism. Or we fear to take steps towards socialism, condemn them in the Plekhanov, Dan or Chernov way, by arguing that our revolution is a bourgeois revolution, that socialism cannot be 'introduced', etc., in which case we inevitably sink to the level of Kerensky, Milyukov and Kornilov, i.e., we in a **REACTIONARY-BUREAUCRATIC** way suppress the 'revolutionary-democratic' aspirations of the workers and peasants."

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## C O M M E N T A R Y

WHEN EHTIOPIAN OPPORTUNISTS ARE IN TROUBLE  
THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS ALSO MAKE THE  
LOUDEST NOISE

By Kelisen Belew

An assorted lot of opportunists are shouting loudly about the "terrorism" of EPRP, the destruction of properties, the instigation of strikes and so on. From a certain correspondant of L'Humanité (Communist Party of France) to Giancarlo Lanuppi of L'Unita (organ of the Communist Party of Italy), from George Polikeit of Unsere Zeit (organ of the Communist Party of Germany) to Y. Tsaplin and Boris Asoyan of the Soviet weekly, New Times; all are united in weaving slander against the EPRP. Conversely, all have made an unholy alliance to defend a regime of gangster officers and traitorous intellectuals, whose hands are stained with the blood of revolutionary workers, youth, peasants, teachers and women. They parrot the official lies of the regime with absolutely no attempt at digestion and analysis, give a false picture as if a tremendous social change had taken place since the Dergue came to power. They falsely and shamefully accuse the revolutionary party of the proletariat, EPRP, to have "allied" with the warlords of EDU and the CIA. They kept absolute silence about the fierce repression and killings unleashed by the ruling junta and traitorous intellectuals. Instead, they chose to accuse our party of "terrorism". Lets now look into the arguements of these gentlemen.

In an article "Ethiopia: Fighting the Reactionaries", a certain Tsaplin of the Soviet Weekly "New Times" no. 47/76 has

sunk to the most ignorant and filthy bourgeois lie about the Ethiopian situation in general and our party in particular. First, based on the economist arguement; Tsaplin and all his ilk of the correspondant of L'Humanité, Lanuppi and so on... say that there has been substantial changess due to the "nationalization" of industrial enterprises and the decree of land reform. Tsaplin, in particular says that "radical changes are taking place in the countryside" and a real "miracle" is going on in rural Ethiopia. Had it been true that Tsaplin is reporting what he really has "seen"; then we would like to invite him to come to Wollo two months later and report what he would see then. We hope he would not accuse EPRP of being responsible for a serious famine, which is already impending now. Secondly; they present the "reforms" as genuine gifts from the Dergue and not as the victory of the popular masses who grabbed, mind you they did not only demanded, land and chased away the landlords to the cities long before the very creation of the Dergue in the height of the February days. Truly, what these gentlemen have written is not what they have seen, but what the regime in Ethiopia wanted them to lie for it.

Thirdly; the peasant millions cannot benefit even if the land were distributed to them unless they are able to defend it. The arming of the peasantry cannot be accomplished by a regime that is anti-people and that has totally refused to do so. Such a task can only be properly carried out by a people's government whose class content is the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and the peasantry. "Radical changes takes place in the countrysdie" only if the peasant poor can retain his land; only if it is armed and only if it is led by none other than the proletariat. Lenin has taught us that land reform under a reactionary central authority is nonesemse and that it is only feasible if it is done by a people's government where the proletariat rules centrally.



In other words, the land question is inseparable from the struggle for democracy, freedom and political power. Lenin seems to make it clear to economists that he is unequivocal about the question of state power when he said, "Only state power wielded by such Soviets (All Russian Soviets of Workers', Peasants', Soldiers" and others' Deputies -Belew) and administering the state not through a police, or a bureaucracy, or a standing army isolated from the people, but through a nation-wide, universal and armed militia of the workers and peasants, can guarantee the realization of the above-mentioned agrarian reforms which are being demanded by the entire peasantry." Who would arm the workers and peasants in Ethiopia? Not the Derg, which is the "police, bureaucracy, standing army isolated" and extremely hated by the people. It is only a power which enjoys the confidence of the workers and peasants, that can arm them, strengthen their alliance, democratize, the society, resolutely crush the counter-revolutionary resistance of the landlords on a Bolshevik scale. Such power is a provisional people's government that is determined by the entire

people, whose class content is the revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry. The Dergue is not only detested but is condemned by the masses. It is not only undemocratic but also fascist. It is not only scared of arming the peasantry but is actually disarming them. It has in many instances collaborated with feudal landlords to crush the revolutionary resistance of the peasants. It has also massacred poor peasants and workers in the cities and rural areas. How can such power "guarantee the agrarian reforms as demanded by the entire peasantry?" We could have liked to quote Lenin at length to prove with his own arguments how petty-bourgeois socialism cannot solve the agrarian question. The reality in Ethiopia testifies to this fact. The decree on land could not even be implemented, let alone solve the land question.

Fourthly, the attitude of Marxists towards reform and fundamental change is very clear and unequivocal. Marxists are not against reforms as long as the "reforms" do not create obstacles to the strategic aims of the proletariat; peoples' democracy and socialism. Similarly; we are not against the Dergue's decree on land. What we are saying is the hard fact that Lenin taught us on the one hand and what the practical reality in Ethiopia has shown on the other; namely the decree alone won't be the solution so long as it is devoid of the political power of the popular masses. The Dergue's decree is simply equalised land tenure, which Lenin castigated as petty-bourgeois utopia and more over, "useless." Land reform cannot be carried out WITHOUT the political power of the proletariat and peasantry; and AGAINST their political participation. History has many cruel examples where attempts to use the feudo-bourgeois state, which is an instrument of enslavement, as an instrument of liberation brought untold sufferings. Tsaplin of the Soviet "New Times" unfortunately sinks in this petty-bourgeois illusion when he tells us that, "Radical changes are taking place in the countryside. The agrarian reform is paving an end to landowner's domination. Millions of hectares of land have already been turned to the peasants." Further sinking in this petty-bourgeois filth, Tsaplin wants us believe that the political programme of the demagogic fascist regime ( a regime, which to his dismay is nevertheless armed to the teeth by the most ferocious enemy of mankind, US imperialism) is not only democratic but also leads straight to communism. He says, "The programme drawn up by the provisional Military Administrative Council sets the task of uniting all the progressive forces for the building of a society in which there will be no exploitation of man by man." Tsaplin, we presume is a



communist. The only thing we can remind him, therefore, is that there is a book called "The Communist Manifesto" in which the founders of scientific socialism explained the difference between petty-bourgeois socialism and scientific socialism. A non-communist, let alone the anti-communist Dergue, can never have a programme that "sets the task ... for the building of a society in which there will be no exploitation of man by man." That is the most dangerous illusion a communist may entertain. Contrary to Tsaplin and his ilk, we hold the basic Marxist-Leninist principle that a social change in the service of the popular masses can come only by the conquest of state power by the popular masses led by their proletarian party and by the complete destruction of the old state apparatus. There is not other way. It is for the building of the proletarian-peasant dictatorship through a revolution from below to resolve the agrarian question in a revolutionary manner that the EPRP stands. And this stand is the only correct one, which the party of the proletariat, the EPRP, pays in blood for its realization.

The most outrageously cheap article by a certain Boris Asoyan appeared on the same New Times of December no. 51/76 under the title: "Ethiopia: 3,000 and 2." In a shameful presentation, almost indistinguishable from any anti-communist bourgeois writer, Monsieur Boris Asoyan has not only repeated what today's "socialist" Dergue says but even the old fairy tale "king Solomon and Queen Sheba" that had been professed by feudal autocracy. Then, he went on to tell us how the revolution started in Ethiopia "by the armed forces" in February 1974. Devoid of any meaningful and scientific analysis, Boris Asoyan

simply wrote a story just like a school teacher, who tells nice silly stories to amuse his pupils. He then went on to praise the slogan "Ethiopia Tikdem" (meaning "Ethiopia First" which is equivalent to Hitler's "Deutschland über Alles") and tells us that "it became the slogan of the revolution." For the white "revolution" from above a la the Shah of Iran, yes, "Ethiopia Tikdem" was its slogan. But, for the people's revolution from below, no, it was not. The slogan of the national democratic revolution that unfolded in February was/is not "Ethiopia Tikdem", but were/are "Peoples' Democracy", "Peoples' Government", "Provisional Peoples' Government," and so on.

Then Monsieur Boris takes the liberty of sinking in a most filthy lie. In a subtitle "Enemies of the Revolution", he enumerates all the accusations the Dergue brought up against the communist EPRP. Enumerating them as "destruction of Crops, sabotage in industry, price hiking, disruptions in food and other commodity supplies, and currency speculation", Boris says that these were the methods used by the "enemies of the revolution." The "clever" Boris forgot, however, the most pernicious spectre that haunted the Dergue; namely the strikes and work slow downs by the valiant Ethiopian proletariat. Of course, Boris cannot mention this, because the workers went on strikes demanding higher wages, opposing the new order of the Dergue that give power to soldiers to SHOOT ON SIGHT on anyone found instigating strikes or demonstrations. Now, Boris compares on equal footing the COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY sabotage just before the overthrow of the popular government of Dr. Allende and the REVOLUTIONARY strikes and demonstrations of Ethiopian workers that are directed not against a popular regime like Allende's, but against an imperialist-puppet and fascist regime and against capital. Boris is trying to reconcile revolution with counter-revolution. He has, consciously or unconsciously, submerged in the most



filthy political act by simply telling lies for a very deplorable objective, i.e., trying to defend one of the bloodiest fascist regimes whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of democratic workers, students, teachers, peasants and women. The fascist regime has committed untold and countless crimes; it has massacred 1000 peasants in a Gojjam, 2,000 Guji peasants in Sidamo, hundreds of rural and urban workers. It executed young revolutionary pioneers in November last who were aged between 14-17, rounded up old men or women well over 80 years old for no other reason than being parents of revolutionaries. We just can't put everything here; it is so much that it needs a whole lot of books to write on. This is a fascist regime that talks of "socialism" but practices the most ruthless and desperate bourgeois dictatorship. It is in the face of this unprecedented reign of terror that Ethiopian workers and youth went into the open carrying high the banner of hammer and sickle and pledging support to their party, the EPRP. Such heroic struggle of the Ethiopian proletariat is labelled as "counter-revolutionary" by the "communist" Boris Asoyan writing on the leading Soviet weekly. And such brutal regime, whose German predecessor had slaughtered 20 million Soviet citizens, is labelled as "the people's government!!!"

Quoting and endorsing the Dergue's Addis Zemen at the same time, Boris writes, "One of the CIA tools, the paper said, was the so-called Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party." Let's state the hard facts that Boris tries to hide and see who the imperialist CIA prefers; the anti-communist Dergue or the communist EPRP. First, the present regime in Ethiopia has not only RESPECTED

the unequal military treaties the country entered with the US under Haile Selassie, but has also renewed them. Therefore, the Dergue still allows the US to work according to the infamous Mutual Defence Pact Agreements, among which is found the continuing use of the military espionage station called Kagnev by the US. Secondly, the US imperialists are still the main suppliers of arms of the Dergue; for fiscal 1976 alone was 118.8 million dollars which is much higher than the sale of arms to Thailand (89.6 million), Greece (83 million), Spain (79.4 million). Thirdly, as the EPRP-led national democratic revolution has been proved impossible to be averted, the notorious CIA expert Godley, who worked as CIA chief in the Congo in the 60s, Laos and Lebanon during the civil war, has been appointed as US ambassador to Ethiopia. Fourthly, the Dergue is actively cooperating with Zionism; Israeli counter-insurgency experts still train the special terrorist division called "Nebelbal"; These are the hard facts that Boris can never deny. We wouldn't unnecessarily and ridiculously indulge in non-sense denials as to the junta's accusation that we are supported by the CIA. If, however, Boris and his ilk are curious to know what is arming our Peoples' Army; we would like (though we still doubt that he would like it) to inform him that we disarm the enemy itself. We have the same reply as to how we get money; we liberate the people's money! If Boris claims the EPRP IS backed up by the CIA because it is armed and strong; then he is wrong. The Bolsheviks were accused of being "German agents"; weren't they? The same holds true to us. The thousands of lies he may repeat cannot reverse the truth of the matter that the communist EPRP is engaged in a fierce class war against fascism, imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. This is the truth written in blood by our heroic proletarian soldiers, which is heavier than all the lies that Boris and others write on the New Times in ink.



The accusation that EPRP collaborates with EDU" is equally shameful. The technique used by Colonel Mengistu and the traitorous intellectuals of the so-called Peoples' Political Office is the same old technique used by Kerensky and the petty-bourgeois parties grouped around him; i.e. accusing revolutionaries of what they themselves are to be blamed. Mengistu and Haile Fida have come out with a new tactical alliance with EDU in order to "destroy" the EPRP. Armed by US imperialism, commanding special forces (Nebelbal) trained by the Zionists, the Mengistu-Haile clique could not subvert the revolution. Thus, they sought "tactical" alliance with the out and out counter-revolutionary warlords grouped around EDU. To cover up this most counter-revolutionary move, they have to come out to blame the EPRP for collaboration with EDU! Amazingly; Boris, Giancarlo Lanuppi, George Polikeit and all others could not see this. Moreover, they couldn't even draw a parallel with the July demonstrations of 1917 in Russia that witnessed the undisputed leadership of the Bolshevik party, and the last May Day demonstrations in Ethiopia, that witnessed the undisputed leadership of EPRP. The July demonstrations were followed by the great slander against the Bolsheviks in general and their genius leader, Lenin, in particular; repression and the Kornilov revolt. Isn't the same thing happening in Ethiopia?

All the above-mentioned correspondants have yet another issue to distort; the question of armed reprisals by our party which is labelled by them as "terrorism". A bourgeois pacifist, who wants peace at any cost, didn't even use the term terrorism. Boris and Co. have descended to a level even lower than any

bourgeois pacifist, when they failed to mention any of the most cruel and terroristic crimes committed by the Dergue and the people's political office. Why? Do they agree with the atrocities, genocide and mass murder carried out by the Dergue and Haile Fida? Even the hangman Mengistu does not deny that he has murdered hundreds and thousands of people. Supporting a regime is one thing; but hiding its most inhuman crimes is servile and inhuman; and yet, condemning the popular armed resistance as "terrorism" is out and out counter-revolutionary. Thus, the necessity of generally dealing with the developments in the last 17 months.

Eversince the September parade of 1975 and the earthshaking political resolution of the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions (CELU), the junta has secretly conducted counter-revolutionary war against the proletariat and its party, EPRP. It arrested, secretly assassinated and officially executed democrats and revolutionaries. The repression has, however, been systematized and intensified since the last May Day, when the proletariat openly and defiantly expressed its support to its party, EPRP; Despite the bloody breaking up of the May Day anti-fascist and pro-EPRP demonstrations throughout the country, the working class and the youth intensified their revolutionary actions. The junta spent the months of May, June and July preparing for a bloody onslaught on EPRP suspect-members and sympathisers helped by the traitorous intellectuals. Actually, the Derg started the war on EPRP last August. The traitorous intellectuals pinpoint EPRP suspects and the Derg executes them. About 150 workers, students and teachers had been arrested in Jimma for being "anarchists" and were all massacred near a river. Another 30 from Makale, 60 from Dessie (Wollo), 35 from Harrar, and quite a number of democrats and revolutionaries from different parts of the country were all executed under bridges, caves,



rivers, in prison and so on. On September 13, Teferi Benti, the now executed head of state, officially declared war on EPRP. That was just the official aspect of the killings that had already begun. Since then, the repression and killings have become the norm in the country. Young people are killed in the streets, in their homes, schools; labour union leaders and activists were murdered anywhere, democratic and revolutionary elements have been liquidated. Thousands have been rounded up. A complete reign of fascist terror reigned. In all the arrests and assassinations, the traitorous intellectuals themselves took part in pinpointing and the assassinations. Such kind of unprecedented fascist reign of terror was unleashed by the Dergue and the Haile Fida clique. This is the bare fact that all these notorious correspondants; Boris, Tsaplin, Giancarlo, Polikeit and others, did not mention or did not want to mention. Now, would the EPRP militants simply fold their arms and wait till the fascists and social-fascists come and put them under the guillotine? Or should they organize and retaliate with revolutionary violence? We leave the answer to any one who has not lost his commonsense. However, we would like to make it clear that we did not start the violence. The violence started in September 1975 but intensified last August by none other than Mengistu Haile Mariam and Haile Fida. It was them who did not want to continue the political struggle and therefore resorted to counter revolutionary violence because the EPRP pulled the rag off under their feet in the political struggle. When they became ferocious and were madly hunting down not only militants but also innocent civilians, then that was no longer peaceful political struggle but criminal violence that had to be met with revolutionary violence and punishment. Just listen to the

up-side-down of the story from the "communist" correspondent, Boris Asoyan, "... terrorists killed Fikre Mërid, one of the leaders of the new regime. Underground terrorist organizations closely linked with the imperialist intelligence services are trying to create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in Addis Ababa and other cities." Imagine, Boris was writing this in December 1976, after the most bloody executions of democrats, revolutionaries and youth (aged between 14-17) had been officially carried out; and he says NOTHING about it! Borgeois humanism, let alone revolutionary humanism, has even condemned this brutality, But, our "communist" Boris did not mention a single thing about it!! How could a communist shut up when young revolutionary pioneers, whose only "crime" was to take part in demonstration, distributing leaflets, are executed just like mad dogs? Two of the 27 executed on November 18 were above 21, the rest were all between 15-17 and the youngest of all, Banile H. Selassie was only 14! And they were all accused of "killings" and "terrorism". Boris' and others' silence about this, and the EPRP's "terrorism" that they reported on their respective organs is simply most irresponsible!

We have time and again explained our programme of action and that it is the masses in Ethiopia who determine the destiny of the Ethiopian revolution. The masses are determined not only to fight rallying themselves under our programme for the cause of peoples' democracy and socialism, but they have also died heroic deaths in this respect. The countless workers who died heroic death while carrying out their tasks assigned to them as members of our party are the martyrs of our glorious revolution. Our party enjoys the popular support by the overwhelming majority of the people. The EPRP is the undisputed vanguard of the masses. A short visit to Ethiopia by any sensible person is enough to see the mass support our party has, and the most



extreme expression of hatred and opposition to the junta and traitorous intellectuals.

The other dangerous aspect of such reports by correspondants like Boris Asoyan and other unknown "experts" on Ethiopian affairs is the fact that they can influence the attitude of their parties. The party Foreign Committee is doing all it can to explain to other parties and government of socialist countries about the situation in our country, our policies and programme of action. However, as long as the so-called "experts" on Ethiopian affairs are in a position of influence in their respective parties and government, the misunderstanding remains.

On the other hand; one Trotskyite group from the US has also tried to "refute" the minimum programme of our party on its organ "Workers Vanguard". This repetitive, boring and cheap argument that appeared on the paper, whose name could have been right had it been "Workers Rearguard"; simply does not deserve a reply.

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#### EPRP EXPRESSES INDIGNATION OVER SOVIET REPORTS

As a Marxist-Leninist party guarding zealously its independence while being committed to proletarian internationalism, the EPRP has firmly and with patience expressed its indignation at various erroneous and false reports about the Ethiopian situation and the EPRP broadcast over Radio Moscow (Amhatic Programme) or published by the Soviet press and newsagencies. Once again, EPRP has been forced to express its firm and unequivocal objection to this report by the Soviet Press Agency. It was reprinted in the Ethiopian Herald, January 14, 1977.

Writing under the title "counter-revolution will collapse", the APN (Soviet Press Agency) article repeats verbatim the fascist junta's malicious lies against the EPRP. The APN not only calls our party "leftist anarchic" (sic!) but also alleges, just like the liar junta, that the EPRP is allied to feudal bandits of the EDU!

Neither the repetition of this lie nor the misused quotation of Lenin can convince the world that the EPRP, the vanguard of the Ethiopian proletariat and oppressed masses, is allied to feudalists. And this as if the fascist junta, whom the APN labels as progressive, has relinquished its obvious monopoly of striking firm alliances with feudal reactionaries.

We find it hard to believe that the APN "lacks" information about the real situation in Ethiopia. Surely, it knows of the blood of innocent people that the "progressive" junta is shedding. Surely, the reporters or at least the embassy personnel have witnessed the mammoth pro-EPRP, anti-junta demonstrations of workers, students and so on... on May Day and on several occasions. If all these people, i.e. the oppressed Ethiopian masses, who support EPRP are counter-revolutionaries, then the definition of of this term must have surely changed.

The internationalist duty of any socialist country or Marxist-Leninist party is to support the struggle of the oppressed masses and their proletarian vanguard. Lenin in his Thesis on the National and Colonial questions emphasizes this in particular saying that support to the proletarian element EVENTOUGH INCIPIENT is primary and necessary. The masses cannot be and will never be forced, duped or cajoled to accept reactionary demagogic soldiers as their vanguards. In Ethiopia, there is a raging struggle against a barbarian junts that daily massacres scores of



communists, democrats. The APN has the duty to report this heroic struggle to the Soviet workers . Its task should not be to give propaganda support to demagogic criminals. It is apparent that our conception of socialism and revolutionary struggle differs from that of the APN. But, there is absolutely NO JUSTIFICATION, NO GROUND or EXCUSE for the APN to echo the blatant lie and fascist fabrication alleging that EPRP is tied to feudal dogs of the EDU!


As in Cambodia, it is the people themselves, who shall determine, through their own struggle, who is revolutionary and who is counter-revolutionary. The Ethiopian people have chosen the EPRP. The APN should consider this truth and also admit that LENIN on many occasions, has said quite apt and correct things about those who put the truth upside-down. We agree with the APN's quotation of Lenin that "for sometime after the revolution traces of the old ethics will inevitably predominate over the young shoots of the new." We are precisely struggling to eradicate the remnants of the old, who range from die-hard feudalists up to slick lying fascist butchers calling themselves "socialists".

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#### E R R A T A

Page 17, Paragraph 3, lines 1 and 2 should read as "Casting aside the claim that the paper is a result of the sole endeavour of the editor, it is beyond doubt that the man..."





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### POINTS OF THE EPRP PROGRAMME

- *To destroy the rule of feudalism and imperialism and to establish a Peoples' Democratic Republic of the broad masses.*
- *To establish a broad, democratic and progressive political system.*
- *To establish a planned democratic and national economy free from foreign domination and to improve the material and spiritual wellbeing of the masses.*
- *To declare and safeguard the unrestricted right of nations to self-determination and to settle the Eritrean question peacefully and democratically based on the aspirations of the Eritrean masses.*
- *To safeguard the interests and rights of the working people.*
- *To establish a national democratic culture and educational system and to run public health services catering to the masses.*
- *To build a Peoples' Army wholly devoted to defend and serve the broad masses and the country.*
- *To ensure equality between men and women politically, economically and socially.*
- *To pursue a foreign policy of peace and non-alignment and active solidarity with all the forces fighting for peace, democracy and socialism.*