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

marx



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Junta Plans To Assassinate

Ethiopian Revolutionaries Abroad

It has been learnt that the fascist junta is planning to assassinate Ethiopian revolutionaries abroad.

This is because the fascist Derg has been fully exposed by the EPRP Foreign Committee. The EPRP's exposure has shattered the fascists' pretention to pass as "progressives". The whole world is condemning their acts of barbarism and is knowing that not only are the fascists far away from being progressives, but also are out and out fascists who kill innocent people because the people wanted to express their grievances and demands.

E D I T O R I A L

" A S P E C T R E I S H A U N T I N G "

The intensity of the class struggle in Ethiopia has reached such a new scale as to be too CRIPPLING to the regime, which has openly admitted that a threat of general uprising has become a matter of serious concern, i.e. much more serious than the war in the Ogaden. "A spectre is haunting" the fascists and international revisionists, a spectre of communist insurrection. All the fascists, local and international revisionists have entered into an unholy alliance to exorcise this most "pernicious spectre":-Mengistu, Brezhnev, Castro and Honecker. If history allows another misfortune, Mother Ethiopia, pregnant of an earth shaking revolution, might suffer from a miscarriage. But, her sons and daughters, the oppressed masses, have stood firm with a resolute NO! to any miscarriage this time. Thanks to their vanguard party, EPRP, they have risen up united to a man and with their brave peoples army, EPRA, they are hitting the road of protracted peoples war.

It is this mature revolutionary situation that forced Mengistu to declare another war on our party. On October 18, 1977, the fascist regime declared war on our party accusing EPRP for all the revolutionary deeds of the masses in the country. Summing up the 12 points which the regime accused us with, one cannot help but glean the fact that the regime is accusing EPRP for mobilizing, organizing the masses and conducting a determined politico-armed struggle at such a large scale as to be highly alarming to the

to the regime.

What does the regime's new declaration of war on our party show? And what does the open affirmation of the regime that the "EPRP is more dangerous than the current war in the Ogaden" signify? In short, it shows that the revolutionary situation in the country and the popular politico-armed struggle both in the countryside and cities are becoming direct threats to the very existence of the regime to a degree where the regime is forced to concentrate more on designing schemes of annihilating the communist EPRP than continuing the unjust war in the Ogaden.

Eversince EPRP celebrated its 2nd year of declaration last August, the party has intensified its struggle on all fronts. The punishment of political criminals and spies have mounted. Not only notorious spies were eliminated but also top officials like Lt. Colonel Mulugeta Eshete, who was head of the security operations as well are punished. Armed propaganda has been intensified by putting a certain zone under armed control in order to defend the dwellers while they are staging demonstrations. The success of the party's struggle against the unjust war in the Ogaden has fully been realized. The intensified anti-war propaganda that the party and peoples army launched among the masses, "militia" and soldiers has resulted in mass support for the party's anti-war slogans. So far lots of soldiers and "militia" men have defected to the side of the revolution by joining the ranks of the peoples army, many soldiers and "militia" men have refused to fight unless their demands

(social and political) are met, and many soldiers and "militia" men have risen up in rebellion following the agitation of the party and peoples army. The recent success of the peoples army in its heroic operation in Gondar province marks another higher progress of the struggle. All together the balance sheet shows that the people are becoming more and more steeled in battle under the party's leadership while the fascists are being isolated from the people and are relying on Brezhnev & Co. Among recent developments which show the undisputed leadership of EPRP are the direct involvement in revolutionary politics of mothers and the old. A case in point is the participation of the dwellers of the 5th High Zone of Addis Abeba in the famous "Battle of October" that took place on the night of October 10. The participation of mothers and the old through their mothers'-committees and fathers'-committees was principally motivated by the hunger strikes and political demonstrations conducted by young revolutionary pioneers (the "Little Red Devils") in opposition to the repression, imprisonment and assassination of their kin and kith. The parents of these young pioneers were touched by the seriousness and devotion of their children for a true cause that in many of the demonstrations the parents joined them. This provided the need for the formation of mothers'-committees and fathers'-committees which our party helped in organizing. While such developments accompanied by intense armed propaganda were taking shape, Mengistu's tottering regime launched a "surprise" house-to-house search on the night of October 10 on the 5th High Zone of Addis Abeba, one of the bastions of EPRP. The dwellers of this zone organized by our party and defended by our EPRA urban units fully put up a resis-

tance. The soldiers were met with heavy fire and screams; the battle took about six hours and the soldiers were repulsed.

The attempt of the regime to divert the attention of the masses from the course of the ongoing national democratic revolution has been frustrated. On the contrary, the slogans of the party "Turn The Unjust War To A Revolutionary Civil War!" and countless others that agitate for the overthrow of the regime and its replacement by a Provisional Peoples' Government have been accepted by the masses. In countless illegal demonstrations the masses have demanded the immediate replacement of the fascist regime by a Provisional Peoples' Government; and they have understood that a regime that conducts unjust wars and fierce repression at the rear cannot be brought down peacefully unless an organized and protracted armed struggle is waged against it. That is why they are waging a life and death struggle to establish a provisional peoples' government on the grave of fascism. And that is why the regime is more concerned about a "threat of insurrection" than the war in the Ogaden.

In its desperate move to suppress the civil war, it had to declare war on the vanguard of the revolution, EPRP. The fascist regime is not alone in this move. International revisionism, spearheaded by its mentors in Moscow and followed by its barking dogs in Havana and Berlin, has found a "Karl Kautsky" role to play to the tune of the Second International in a vain attempt to keep in power a tottering regime. The anti-communist regime in South Yemen, which wants to pass as "progressive" in the region is also directly

involved in Ethiopia by sending troops. Other dishonest reactionary regimes in the region are also plotting with US-led world imperialism to bring the old reactionary system back to power.

In the face of such a situation, the fascist regime has already launched its most criminal acts against the people. It has introduced a new system of "free act" in which soldiers and spies can shoot on the spot at any EPRP suspect. Lots of such assassinations have been carried out since the 10th of October. It is still executing revolutionary political prisoners. The youth are being rounded up on a massive scale. Under the current revolutionary situation in which the regime is threatened with a "sudden storm" by the masses, it would not be surprising if fascism would launch a mass liquidation campaign especially against the youth. In its anti-people crimes of the the recent past, present and future the fascist regime is not the only one to be held responsible by the progressive world and humanity in general. Equally responsible are the revisionists of the "Soviet" Union, Cuba and the German "Democratic" Republic.

We would not underestimate fascism nor would we overestimate it; we would not consider it as stupid nor as clever. We would not dream that it would crumble tomorrow nor would we expect it to last long. We would not relax because of its inevitable destruction, we would NEVER consider it to be victorious either. All these because the peoples war is invincible! No matter how many Klashnikov guns Mengistu has swallowed, the universal truth that "the gun does not command

politics" will never be reversed. Because it is the masses, and the broad masses alone, who are the makers of history.

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THE FALL OF ATNAFU: WHAT WAS BEHIND
THE RAPPROACHMENT WITH THE US?

In describing the Prussian bourgeoisie Karl Marx once said, "Without faith in itself, without faith in the people, grumbling at those above, trembling before those below,.... distrustful of its own mottoes, intimidated by the world storm, exploiting the world storm,..... an execrable old man,..... sans eyes, sans ears, sans teeth, sans everything - such was the Prussian bourgeoisie that forced itself at the helm of the Prussian state after the March revolution."

The fascist regime in Ethiopia, a regime of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie, that tried all that is practically impossible, namely a bourgeois revolution in its old form, is now found in a state of confusion. Divided in factions everytime by the unabated blows of the revolution from below, one faction liquidating another; the Derg has been squeezed to the minimum size. As Marx said of the Prussian bourgeoisie; the Derg has lost faith in itself and in the people, it is trembling before the communist-led democratic revolution, it is frustrated by all the contradictions that arose as a result of its own declarations which are historically unrealizable by its leadership except for the leadership of the proletariat, and it is intimidated by the situation around the region and the hege-

monist powers who have reduced it to a miserable puppet of the area.

After the February coup, it seemed that the Russians had outstripped the Americans from the stock exchange in the Horn where hegemonist powers are battling to swap puppet regimes. However, rifts began to reveal themselves. The chosen path of non-capitalist path is as much a historical impossibility as the vanished bourgeois path of the old type. What on earth could be delivered by a so-called "non-capitalist path" under the leadership of a bureaucratic bourgeoisie (a bourgeoisie created by imperialism) except fascism? The problems persisted. None of the fundamental problems of Ethiopian society are solved. The EPRP-led new democratic revolution increased with vigour. The war in the Ogaden erupted. The fascist ranks began to group in factions. Three perceptible factions began to take shape within the Derg.

The first group wanted to renounce all the rhetorics about socialism and the relations both local and international, that subsequently followed. It wanted to stick to its original fascist slogan, "Ethiopia Tikdem." The second group wants to maintain the so-called programme of the "national democratic revolution" and argues that relations be maintained with both Russia and the US on an equal footing. The third group wants to pursue the present national, regional and international policy, which is pro-Russian. As usual, Mengistu did not take any position. In essence, the first and second groups had no basic difference; the first wanted to follow outright pro-US policy while the second contemplated on balancing between the two hegemonist powers. Had the coalition been strong enough to ensue an immediate coup, Mengistu was prepared to

side them. The contradiction between the coalition and the third group might have been resolved through a coup d'etat or in a major shift of alignment or by a drastic purge against the coalition. What happened now is the sudden purge of the coalition.

One amazing thing for an onlooker is the fast developments of group formation by different forces within the Derg. Just last February, Mengistu launched his pro-Russian coup. Just before the end of the year a pro-US coup was eminent for the position of the pro-US elements was strengthened. Since July there has been activities to the effect of rapprochement with the US. Outright pro-US elements within the Derg led by Atnafu formed a political grouping called "Abyotawy Seif", which means Revolutionary Sword. Both prior to and after the formation of this group, secret delegations of the Derg have been flocking to the United States. Mengistu has also attempted to improve relations with the US. He has met with the US Charge d'affairs quite a number of times. Birhanu Baye, Derg's secretary for foreign affairs, has said in a BBC interview that the Derg still wanted arms from the US and that they "don't understand why the US has grudges on the Derg" and that they want rapprochement and good relations with the US. The foreign minister of the Addis Abeba regime recently conferred with the foreign minister of Iran. Moreover, the US had played a big role in persuading the Israelis to give assistance to the Derg. While all these activities were going on, the Derg, in the mean time, withdrew its propaganda attacks against US imperialism.

The leading figure in the rapprochement activity with the US was the one time premier,

Michael Emru. Due to his "correct handling" of the rapprochement and the subsequent improvement of the position of the US within the ruling circles in Ethiopia, Michael Emru has become a popular figure among the pro-US group within the Derg. Among other things, the US that knows too well its own boys in Addis Abeba, appeared to be successful in winning the confidence of the pro-US group by assuring them that it would not give arms to Somalia. The refusal of the US to supply arms to the Somalis is based on their own close observation that the anti-communist officers in the Derg wouldn't go beyond the orbit of imperialism. They were sure that the closure of their bases and the abolition of the Mutual Defence Pact Agreement with the Ethiopian government would not mean a lot. They were also sure that the barking Mengistu would soon come back to his master apologizing like a defeated dog that hides its tail between its legs. Truly, the US seems to know the very people in the Derg whom it cultivated for its own service than the desperate hyenas in Moscow.

The fall of Atnafu did not and cannot end the contradictions within the Derg. The acute contradiction between the coalition and the third group still remains. The fall of Atnafu shows the purge of the first group from power. The second group, which wants relations and alignment with both the US and Russia on an equal footing still exists in the Derg.

But, one thing is clear; the outright pro-US group is hit. More purges of the members of Atnafu's Abyotawy Seif would follow. The position of the US as compared to that of the Russians within the Derg is weakened again. The latest accusation of the US State Department against Cuba of keeping its soldiers in Ethiopia and Somalia's decision to cut diplomatic rela-

tions with Cuba on the ground that Cuban troops are fighting in the Ogaden along side the Ethiopian forces and its expulsion of Russian experts shows that the US has moved closer to Somalia following the weakening of its position within the Derg. This may result in the escalation of the Ogaden war for the present US position may strengthen the Somali forces.

Whatever happens to this or that faction in the Derg, which is a puppet of this or that hegemonist power, the national democratic revolution still continues unabated. It is non-other than the very strength of the revolution that divides the members of the Derg. So long as the EPRP exists the revolution continues to be strengthened; so long as the revolution continues the Derg continues to be divided.

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" FREE TO KILL!" - THE NEW FASCIST
SEARCH METHOD

This latest aspect of the junta's repressive policy was discussed at a meeting on October 4, chaired by the notorious junta member, Major Debela Dinsa. Those taking part included:

- a. Chairmen of the Higher Districts Dwellers' Associations,
- b. officers from the First and Fourth Army Divisions,
- c. commander of the Addis Abeba City Police Force, and
- d. the overall chairman of the Addis Abeba Dwellers' Associations.

The meeting which was called to review

the growing strength of "anti-revolutionaries", first endorsed the regime's plan to conduct a sudden house-to-house search in Addis Abeba. How this was to be carried out was entrusted to the military members. They recommended that a policy of "free to kill" any suspected opponent of the regime be "put into operation". However, this point was debated at length. A member of the ruling Derg argued strongly that the plan had to be adopted. In his review, "Anti-revolutionary activities have for a long time been associated with the youth. Hence, we can destroy counter-revolutionaries, not by examining evidences against them nor by waiting for informers to identify them, BUT by liquidating the youth. This can be done by empowering all our security forces to shoot any youth whom they suspect of being opposed to us. By hitting hard at youth we can eliminate our problems. This is what we call 'freedom to kill,' and I am asking particularly the chairmen of the Dwellers' Associations to co-operate full heartedly with this fresh mission of the Derg." Not all the participants agreed with the plan. But, their disagreement was not an essential one, only in form. They argued that the searches had to be conducted in the "old way." This meant that "search squads will surround a suspected home or building and arrest or shoot any one" not co-operating with them. Hence, it differed from the new proposals in that the regime's thugs now had wider powers to shoot everyone, particularly the youth, without bothering with questioning or arrests. What is more, the killings this time, unlike in most cases under the previous policy, were to be done in the streets, homes and work places and not in prisons, detention centres and deserted fields. Acceptance of the new

proposals would have meant further isolation of the chairmen of the Dwellers' Associations and their armed thugs- already detested and hated by the masses.

Thus, they refused to endorse the Derg's proposals as they stood. Col. Mengistu and his close associates labelled the rejection as "an EPRP decision" and gave instructions that it should be ignored. Once more the regime showed its true face: it can never accept even mild criticism of its policies. Once more confirming how right the broad masses and the EPRP have been from the start in not being hoodwinked by its demagogy.

Later, the leadership of the so-called All Ethiopian Trade Unions "passed a resolution" supporting the Derg's proposals: "We have time and again called for house to house searches be made. But due to reactionary rightwing bureaucrats, our calls were ignored. Therefore, it has now become necessary for us to 'act freely' in a manner that the government wouldn't know." Actually, that their 'free' action would fully be known to the regime becomes clear when one examines who the members of the search teams are. The "resolution" stipulates that these will be composed of "soldiers, police, urban dwellers' association committee appointees, pro-government trade union members, all of whom would have consistently given solidarity to the government." (Emphasis ours - ABYOT) Such a team then is to 'freely act' without the government's knowledge! The murder squad, for that is what it really is, has as its mission "to destroy in particular the resistance of the youth wherever it is met as directed by the Derg."

The revisionist renegades true to form in their usual service to the oppressing classes did their share to weaken the resolve of the broad masses. They distributed a leaflet in which they attacked our party. They say, "The people must foil the EPRP's attempt to make the searches a failure. The masses must realize that the armed struggle conducted by the EPRP in the towns and countryside at a time when the children of the poor are being released (sic!) from prison, has brought about the government's repression. Therefore, we call on the masses not to support the EPRP." Nothing could be more clear, opportunist and spineless! Of course, this is not the first time our revisionists and their international spiritual chiefs in Moscow have attempted to distort realities and dish out un-Marxist analysis.

First of all, the Ethiopian broad masses who were responsible for bringing down the autocratic feudal regime in 1974, are the ones who have now also continued to struggle for democracy and socialism. Unlike today's renegades and opportunists, it was the workers, peasants, revolutionary youth, women and oppressed nationalities who opposed the junta from the start in September 1974. The regime has given them nothing but torture, more repression and massacres - in Eritrea, Sidamo, Addis Abeba, the Awash Valley, the Ogaden, Wollo, Gondar, etc... The list is long. The oppressed masses, in turn, fought back. First spontaneously, but later on guided by their party, the EPRP, in a more organized manner, until today when their united strength is so strong and nation wide that no amount of demagoguery will save the regime from falling. As to the "children of the poor" being released,

we would have been the first to welcome it had it been true. But the revisionists are simply lying! At the time when their leaflet was distributed 403 children of the poor were murdered in cold blood in prisons throughout Addis Abeba!! Those who have been released were the children of the aristocracy and bureaucrats of whom not only Ethiopians but the whole world knows. Since they called on the masses in Addis Abeba to stop co-operating with our party, the opposite had occurred - massive and resolute support turning all the latest house-to-house searches into a total failure! Fascists, revisionists and all opportunists, we say to you, - you stand totally bankrupt and more isolated than ever before. One is reminded of Plekhanov and the other opportunists of his time who said of the workers' uprising of Moscow in December 1905, "they shouldn't have taken to arms." Like our opportunists, they too blamed the Marxists for the Czarist crackdown on its opponents. Lenin, replying to the arm-chair 'Marxists' noted: "On the contrary, we should have taken to arms more resolutely, energetically and aggressively; we should have explained to the masses that it was impossible to confine things to a peaceful strike and that a fearless and relentless armed fight was necessary." In our conditions, faced with a brutal regime not prepared to accept timid criticism from within its own ranks, does not leave the masses but to take up their arms. And they have. And though cowards may flinch and traitors sneer, the EPRP will keep the red flag flying over Ethiopia!

In the face of the latest onslaught by the regime and its opportunist supporters on the struggle of the masses, the party, its

youth league -EPRYL- and its thousands of supporters began a concerted agitation against the murderous search plans. We shall give below an extract of a report describing the mass response.

The Battle of October

The entire working youth and revolutionary students in Addis Abeba prisons went on a hunger strike from 5-7 of October, in protest against the search and destroy plans of the Derg. Other prisoners, in particular at Alam Bekagn, (the largest prison in East Africa) also joined the hunger strike in support. When relatives and friends took food to prisoners on Sunday the 9th of October, they found that practically all the prisoners were on hunger strike. As each group began moving home, they converged on the Mexico Square chanting anti-fascist slogans. As their number was swelled by passers-by, it turned into a big demonstration which only dispersed after troops loyal to Mengistu began firing shots.

In the mean time, in other parts of the city, slogans against the fascist searches of homes were painted on walls and pavements. Several demonstrations were also going on in different districts. Anti-junta, pro-EPRP leaflets were distributed by young pioneers and revolutionary songs were heard in many parts of Addis Abeba. Mothers joined hand in hand with their sons and daughters in a determined defiance of the fascistic rule of the Derg. Mobile armed propaganda units of the masses moved into restaurants, bars, homes and explained the counter-revolutionary nature of the junta's house to house 'searches.'

With each passing hour, the situation became frightening for the Derg. And about 10 p.m. of the 10th of October, the regime ordered the encirclement of the working class sections of the capital (from Tekle Haimanot, Mercato, Geja Sefer, Abinet, Addis Ketema, Ehil Berenda and Kolfe.) Renegades were reported to have been among the 'scouts' whose main function was to try pointing out homes known for their longtime opposition to fascist rule. However, the broad masses were prepared. With whistles and cries, signs were transmitted all over. Following this, lights in homes and in the streets were put off, throwing the areas affected into total darkness. Then, the people began shouting slogans in unison: "The fascists whose mission to kill the youth have come!" "The fascists who bayonet expectant mothers have arrived!" "The fascists who have destroyed our country are here, arise! Fight!"

The junta's forces realising the extent of the wrath of the broad masses, but trying to cow them began shooting in all directions with heavy automatic weapons. They also opened fire from mounted armed vehicles. The people responded by firing their pistols and machine-guns. Those with no weapons took positions behind the murder squads and threw stones at them. As their situation became hopeless, the Derg's soldiers frantically radioed for reinforcements. They were heard saying, "We are facing an unknown force and can't cope with it." The "unknown" force was none other than the combined and determined force of the broad masses and its party, EPRP. In this way the battle which began at 10p.m. continued for the following two and half hours, when four tanks moved into the Mercato area, the scene of the

battle. Even then people were not frightened. They continued to fight back. While the young, both men and women, and their fathers fought the fascists, mothers were seen caring for the wounded and taking food for the combatants. It resembled just like a battlefield. It lasted until 4 a.m.

That was a night in which the masses displayed their genuine hatred for the regime; and that they were prepared to sacrifice their lives in order to stand for what they believed. They also showed their strength, fighting spirit and method of struggle. And the plan of the fascist Derg to murder the working youth was shattered. It was a night which showed that the EPRP and the broad masses were like fish and water.

Casualties resulting from the battle were an unknown large number of enemy dead and one armoured jeep which ended in a ditch. From the side of the combatants 6 fathers, 4 mothers and one youth died while 4 were injured. The next morning residents of the district paid tribute to the martyrs and everyone said that they will mourn their dead heroes but shall give them a befitting memory by carrying on the struggle. Many were also heard remarking, "If we had not fought with great determination, those fascist beasts would have massacred us and our children. Our sacrifice is small. In fact, our enemies lost many."

The anti-search demonstrations in many city districts, in particular by young pioneers and mothers, the hunger strike of the youth and other prisoners, the failure of the Mercato search operation, the co-operation of the masses (the fighting, the blacking-out of streets and homes, concerted cries and slogans) all these have shaken the regime to its

foundations. The oppressed masses on the other hand, have realized from this concrete experience that if united, there was no force which should defeat it. This is now spreading from one zone to another.

More preparations are now going on for agitation, demonstrations, political propaganda and other methods to frustrate the repressive junta's plans, the so-called house-to-house searches.

The fascists' "freedom to kill" policy will be crushed by the united arm of the oppressed!!

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INTERNATIONAL REVISIONISM STEPPS UP
COLLABORATION WITH ETHIOPIAN FASCISTS

At this particular juncture of the class struggle in Ethiopia, when the leaders of a tottering regime are biting each other in an internal power struggle, the war maniac colonels, having declared the second war on the party of the proletariat, are committing the most ruthless atrocities through their so-called "free act" policy. A fact that can neither be forgiven nor be glosed over is the full scale collaboration of international revisionism in this diabolical fascist violence. Totally committed to a tottering regime, whose chicken legs seem to walk on sticks; the Russians, Cubans and East Germans are now working round the hour with the Ethiopian security. The frenzied venture of the Derg to "crush the EPRP" has become its top priority project as well. Can EPRP simply fold its arms and watch these spineless

revisionists hatch their cannibalistic schemes to "wipe us out"?

The world knows now that the Russian revisionists are arming the fascist regime in Ethiopia with their modern weapons, tanks and aeroplanes. Moreover, they are involved directly with their own personeel in the anti-people campaign to "crush the EPRP", and suppress democratic forces. Recently 22 Russian security officers, who are well known experts of the KGB's telephone bugging network, have arrived in Ethiopia and have immediately started their counter-revolutionary police work against suspected EPRP members. Moreover, the Russian government is also providing Ethiopian military personeel special training on security and torture techniques.

Russia's barking dog, Cuba, has also intensified its intervention. Cuban troops involved in Ethiopia are estimated between 450-500. These soldiers, whose fascist cause and their very morality is identical with that of the American mercenaries in Indo-China, are already hated by the Ethiopian masses. The conduct of the Cuban soldiers is similar to that of the American GIs. They whistle at women just like the American lumpen mercenary GI, they make a pass at every woman they see or meet just like that decadent bourgeois mercenary who thinks of women as sexual commodities. This is not all. They have already kidnapped and raped women. Has the Marxist motto on the women question changed from the emancipation of women to communalization of women? Or is it the "proletarian internationalism" that signor Castro taught his mercenaries? Where goes all the Castroite bluff that "women must be double revolutionaries"? Or

could it be that these soldiers were absent at the plaza del Revoluzione when the signor was fanning his demagogy on the woman question?

The Cubans are also working hard to construct an arms depot in a very extensive area that starts from Siga Meda all the way to Holetta. To go on with their construction they have to evict all the peasants from their land in this area. Thus, they are making pleas- to the peasants. But, the peasants have refu- sed just like the Wonji peasants refused to do the same thing to the Dutch HVA Sugar Plantation Company about 20 years ago. Cuban security officers are also actively working with the Russians. The East Germans, apart from arming the Derg, are also actively working in the security. They are also giving advanced training on security and torture techniques to Ethiopian officers.

Altogether, the revisionists are all wor- king actively to destroy the EPRP and are exerting their effort to the maximum. As such, their involvement in the Ethiopian revolution now is not only political nor ideological, nor is it only in terms of supplying arms to the fascist regime. They are now fully eng- aged in the repression against EPRP, youth, workers, peasants and other democratic forces. The whole world has witnessed what this repression meant. Derg's repression means the continuing massacres, killings, tortures and imprisonment of the Ethiopian masses. The revisionists are consciously blind to these atrocities.

The regime in South Yemen is also involved in the Ethiopian revolution. It has put dip- lomatic pressures against EPRP, made campaign against EPRP and finally it has sent more than

120 troops to the Derg. Unconfirmed reports also say that a few thousand of the so-called "peoples militia" are under intensive training in South Yemen.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Russian stooge, is also inter- vening within the limits of its capacity. After a tour to Ethiopia by the front dele- gation, it has come out openly in support of the fascists in Ethiopia. It has sent to the Derg 6 "experts" to train the "militia".

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ZIONISTS ACTIVELY CO-OPERATING WITH FASCISM

The "provisional" military government that replaced Haile Selassie's autocratic regime has not still changed the country's relations with Israel. It was an open secret that in 1973 Haile Selassie, forced by the political pressure of Arab and African Coun- tries, severed diplomatic relations with Israel while maintaining active secret rela- tions with it. The military butchers who replaced Haile Selassie did not change any- thing to this effect. Israel, for its stra- tegic interest in the Red Sea area, continues to support the regime in Ethiopia, which has some sort of contradictions with Arab states in the region. The Derg, which is not anti- imperialist and anti-zionist by its very nature, still receives arms from zionist israel.

Among other things, the Israelis are currently doing maintenance work for the fighter planes of the Ethiopian Air Force.

They are also training tank personnel for the Ethiopian armed forces.

The EPRP has learnt that, recently a batch of 1000 hand picked army men have returned from Israel after receiving intensive and special training. This batch had at first been told that they would be going to Russia for political training. They were instead taken to Israel for a special training. When they reached Israel, they were instructed to say that they came from Kenya and never say that they were from Ethiopia. When they returned to Ethiopia, they were again instructed to say that they came from Russia.

Has this been done without the knowledge of the Russians?

Apart from these, Israel is also supplying arms and ammunition to the bloodthirsty murderous regime of Mengistu. These light and medium sized weapons are used by "security" forces to destroy the revolutionary forces. Have the Russians objected to this? No, of course not. After all, their klashnikovs and the Israeli Uzis are all used against communists, democrats and nationalists.

The Russians, Cubans and East Germans are bluffing when they claim they are "supporting" a regime which is "anti-imperialist" and "Anti-zionist". Unless the "Great" Russians ask us to close our own eyes, we have seen that the "anti-imperialist" and "anti-zionist" regime in Addis Abeba is actually being supported by Israel itself. The delegation of The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which visited Addis Abeba recently could not even see the Addis Abeba-Tel Aviv axis when it shamefully pledged

not only political support but also active co-operation with the fascists in Ethiopia. God bless you all; zionists, fascists, revisionists and the psychopants in your "holly" alliance to destroy the Ethiopian revolution.

THE ASSEFAT (TIGRAI) CONFERENCE OF
EPRA WOMEN

As the necessity of a union of women combatants within the EPRA became obvious, a meeting of EPRA women combatants was held in Assimba, Tigray, sometime in April this year. At this preliminary meeting, the women comrades discussed on three important points. First, they discussed on how to increase the participation of women in the EPRA. Second, they emphasized that the organizational work among the peasant women in the EPRA strongholds should be conducted not only by the army in general but also by women combatants in particular. Third; the meeting agreed to form a provisional organizing committee to organize a conference of women fighters of EPRA in the near future.

The first conference of the Women's Union in EPRA was held between July 29 and August 1, 1977. It was held in Assefat, Tigray province. The conference, from the beginning to the end was filled with revolutionary enthusiasm. Marked by the active participation of EPRA women, the conference was successful not only because it was educational but also because it conducted criticism and self-criticism.

The Assefat Conference was a historic one. It is a milestone in the development of the revolutionary women movement in Ethiopia. It was held at a time when the flow to EPRA

areas by party comrades, other democratic elements and soldiers (who defected to the side of the revolution) reached its peak. It was held at a time when EPRA intensified its political work among the peasant masses and its armed operation against the enemy, which resulted in the rapid growth of EPRA in size. Thus, the Conference was held at this period when the necessity of organizing a women's union in the EPRA to concentrate on the women question both within and outside the army. Truly, the Conference was a historic one because it was the first time that EPRA women formed their union and because it was the first women conference to be held in a free zone.

In its deliberations, the Conference listened the report of the Provisional Organizing Committee and assessed the position of women in the peoples army. Both before and during the Conference, a rectification campaign was conducted. The Conference then discussed the current situation in Ethiopia, in the region and in the world at large. The problems women face in their work in the peoples army and the solutions were also discussed.

The Conference then elected 3 comrades for the executive committee of the Women Union in EPRA, an organizing committee of three comrades who co-ordinate the organizational work of peasant women in the EPRA free zones and one comrade for the publication committee of the the army and one comrade for the Committee For the Defence of the Rights of Members of the Peoples Army.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

68 Workers Executed in Adama

More than 700 workers from the Metahara Sugar Plantation and different assets in Adama (chauvinistically and officially referred as "Nazareth") have been languishing in the compound of the Adama tank brigade being accused of holding demonstrations. 70 of them have been under severe interrogation and torture. Later on, 68 of them have been executed in cold blood. The 68 were executed after their refusal to denounce their vanguard party, EPRP;

COMMISSION FORMED TO REORGANIZE THE ARMED FORCES: RUSSIANS AND CUBANS ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS

A high level Military Commission to Reorganize the Armed Forces for the lately planned campaign to "regain the territories lost in Eritrea to the liberation fronts, in the Ogaden to the Somali government and in Tigray as well as Begemdir to the EPRA" was formed. It is composed of 7 high ranking Ethiopian military officials, 8 Russian and 3 Cuban military experts. For fear of any information leak a plan devised by the Russians is being applied during the proceedings of the commission. That is; it is strictly forbidden for any of its members to bring in or take away anything from the meeting hall, not even a ball point or papers. The commission is chaired by the chief of staff of the armed forces. The high ranking Russian officer is a Lt. General. The commission is guarded by three armed guards all the time standing in

the meeting hall.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN SESSION

Sometime in the middle of last month (October), a meeting of the council of ministers was held to discuss budgetary problems. The problem that had to be solved was the question of payment to the militia, which is engaged in looting spree and is also demanding wages for its service. The ministers toyed with the idea of paying 20 Birr to the militia but could not discover where they can find the funds. The meeting adjourned without any decision on the matter.

36 DEFECTING SOLDIERS EXECUTED

2,000 defecting regular troops in Shewa administrative region from the junta's army tried to join the EPRA. The junta supporters' foreknowledge of this development resulted in a battle among the troops, where 36 of them were held incommunicado. These soldiers were later taken to Adigrat, Tigray, and executed there.

SAMPLES OF POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY ACTIONS

The people in the neighbourhood of Shola made a sit-down strike on October 7, 1977 and closed all traffic roads. This action, along with a massive political demonstration was organized by our party.

On the same day, another wave of house to house search was accidentally started around the Mola Maru Hotel surrounding, but the people aborted this latest outrage by putting off light and building heavy resistance against the fascist search. On the

same day a house to house search was attempted in Kera as well. It too failed resulting in 3 government soldiers killed.

Youth and revolutionary pioneers went on a hunger strike on October 8, 1977. The strike was a success after two days. Those in jail also went on a hunger strike. Visitors could enter prison. This prompted the people to hold a peaceful procession. The soldiers opened fire and people in protest were dispersed.

The resolution of the so-called All Ethiopian Trade Unions to raise production to work on holidays, to collect funds and to feed the families of those who joined the war front has fallen on deaf ears. The people having become conscious for this ploy have refused to budge to these demands and frustrated the regime's schemes of diverting the social revolution.

The 3rd Division regular soldiers and the peasant militia have refused to fight. The Air Force too has refused. It has forwarded specific demands to the regime.

The working class recruits who joined the militia at Siga Meda have created problems to the regime. The regime has lost faith on the workers, who have been forced by it to join the "militia." Consequently, the junta has decided not to receive any more recruits from the working class.

EPRP Foreign Committee Issued Poster


The EPRP Foreign Committee recently issued a poster designed to raise funds and to show how the party marked its second year of declaration.

The poster, entitled, "EPRP Marks 2nd Year of Declaration", contains three sketches. Each sketch has been distributed as a separate poster inside Ethiopia when the party marked the 2nd year of declaration. The purpose of the poster is to show how the party celebrated its 2nd year of declaration on the one hand and to raise fund on the other.

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SOME OF EPRP'S SMALL-SIZED POSTERS DISTRIBUTED IN ETHIOPIA WHEN THE PARTY MARKED ITS 2nd YEAR OF DECLARATION. THE POSTERS READ " We will establish provisional peoples government by armed struggle".





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*
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