

VOL. 2, NO 7

INT. INSTITUUT
SOC. GESCHIEDENIS
AMSTERDAM

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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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PUBLISHED BY THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES'
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY - FOREIGN COMMITTEE

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Tribute To The Fallen Comrades

As the fascists continue with their house-to-house searches, more crime is still committed against the masses. For this reason the towns people were forced to put up armed resistance. The urban units of EPRA are also active in organizing this popular resistance. On Nov. 26, in one of their searches, the fascists tried to enter a house, where Comrade Tigist G. Selassie and others were in, fighting broke out. The fascists showered bullets at the house. Comrade Tigist was wounded and caught with the others. The fascists executed her on the spot. Comrade Tigist, a woman comrade was a member of the party's youth league, Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Youth League (EPRYL). EPRP pays tribute to party and EPRYL members, and to the members of the Oromo Peoples Liberation Organization (OPLO) who died a heroic death in the battle against fascism.

EDITORIAL

OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS

Like all other oppressed peoples, the Ethiopian masses too have a long history of bitter and uncompromising struggle against both local and foreign oppressors and exploiters. This struggle has met with successes and also with defeats. At present, the bitter struggle to wipe out the fascist regime, feudalism and imperialism is raging with an intensity and determination that has no parallel in the history of the oppressed peoples of Ethiopia.

Since the massive February Revolutionary upsurge, the Ethiopian masses have made a gigantic leap forward. They have got their vanguard party of the proletariat, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party. Under the banner of the EPRP, the struggle has deepened and broadened. The political struggle has been intensified and heightened. The armed struggle in the cities and countryside continues to grow. The oppressed masses of all nationalities continue to strengthen their class ties and to frustrate the frantic machinations of chauvinists and narrow nationalists. The fascist junta is besieged and further isolated as the result of its barbarian terror. In short, the revolutionary struggle of the Ethiopian masses surges on a sure course to victory under the leadership of the EPRP.

The Ethiopian masses have and continue to struggle against fascism, feudalism and imperialism, headed by the US. They know these enemies, and they have never ceased

from fighting against them. However, since sometime now a new enemy has entered the scene. This enemy is the Soviet revisionist clique and its puppets in Havana and East Europe.

The Soviet revisionists (along with their mercenary dogs) have committed themselves to the full defence of the fascist junta headed by "Duce" Mengistu Haile Mariam. They have supplied him with arms, money, troops ("experts"), advisors, security and interrogation experts, etc. Internationally, they continue to give the fascist regime full political and active propaganda backing. In short, the revisionist Mafia headed by Moscow has stood side by side with the fascist junta and its counter-revolutionary acts. This has meant clearly that Moscow and its puppets are standing firmly and squarely against the oppressed Ethiopian masses and their vanguard, - the EPRP.

The EPRP did not start to fight the Moscow counter-revolutionaries only at the time they took the side of fascism and stood against the Ethiopian revolution. When the EPRP was formed it declared that revisionism constitutes a very grave danger and is the main one to the international communist movement. Consequently, the EPRP consistently fought against revisionism both inside and outside the party. Its concrete positions on very many international situations (Middle East, Africa, Cambodia, etc..) clearly expressed its firm anti-revisionist line. Internally, the ideological struggle against revisionism never slackened. Collaborationist and reformist currents were exposed and beaten on

many occasions. The struggle against revisionists outside the party helped also to discredit any such tendency that may arise within the party. Thus, within the EPRP, revisionism had no footing and by the time the Soviet generals and the Cuban mercenaries arrived en force in Ethiopia -EPRP met them with revolutionary firmness mobilising the people against their counter-revolutionary acts. No wonder if the Soviet revisionists declare that "the EPRP is dangerous". Surely, EPRP is dangerous, in fact to all fascists and revisionist scums.

The struggle we are waging against the Soviet revisionist clique is not solely because these counter-revolutionaries have plunged their dirty criminal fingers into Ethiopia. We are fighting them because we believe that they, and their ilk, and the revisionist garbage they peddle around stand against the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples of the world. Our analysis of the Soviet Union and its puppets is neither subjective nor a parroting of the views of others. The EPRP believes that revisionism is a result of a process and not a result of changes in the personalities leading a party. The seed of revisionism exists in all Marxist-Leninist parties and in many of them it has a fertile ground that will help to flourish unless genuine revolutionaries nip it up in the bud. The capitalist or semi-feudal heritage, the vast number of Marxist-Leninist parties, the spreading of reformism at the international level, etc are all factors that help revisionism to thrive. The EPRP knows that the problem begins at the early stage when the party

has not come to power. That is why it is actively and vigorously fighting all manifestations of revisionism and also dogmatism. Concretely, the EPRP struggles:

- to politicise its members intensively through the study of Marxism-Leninism and through revolutionary practice;
- to enhance democracy within the party and to fight all manifestations of authoritarianism;
- to uphold the mass-line and to show in practice that it firmly believes that the masses make history. In this respect too, the EPRP upholds collective work and fights vigorously all forms of "personality cult" which elevate an individual or a group of individuals above the party and the masses. We shall have no "Sun of the nation", no gods nor "Supreme geniuses." Our heroes are the millions of the oppressed masses.
- to maintain the autonomy of the mass organizations and to make sure that the proletariat through its various instruments organs exercise power.

The Soviet Union is a country where democracy has been stifled. It is a country where a clique of bureaucrats rule with iron hands in the name of the working class. It is a country where the working class has no say either in the running of the government or the industries. It is a country where the people are muzzled, where genuine Marxists are hounded, sent to concentration camps or destroyed in psychiatric hospitals. In the Soviet Union (and in East Europe) Socialism is a mask behind which ruthless counter-revolutionary revisionists hide. Thus, it is not

at all surprising if we find these revisionists forming a counter-revolutionary bloc with fascists in Ethiopia and elsewhere in order to liquidate the genuinely revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses and their vanguard parties.

We fight the Soviet and other revisionists because we want to keep our country free from such pests. We fight them because the society we want to build, i.e. a genuinely socialist Ethiopia, is contrary to theirs. The EPRP firmly believes and zealously guards its independence. It will fight the Soviet revisionists just as it has and will continue to fight the US imperialists. It will fight revisionism and will struggle against dogmatist currents inside and outside the party. Marxism-Leninism is a vibrant, ever developing correct and scientific ideology. It is alien to all those who want to revise or ossify it.

Taking Marxism-Leninism as its guide and firmly keeping its revolutionary line based on its own concrete analysis of the objective situation at the local and international level, the EPRP is certain that it will accomplish the historic task of bringing about the triumph of the oppressed Ethiopian masses over feudalism, imperialism, the fascist junta and its revisionist masters.

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EPRA SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED A
VAST RECTIFICATION CAMPAIGN

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army (EPRA) has successfully carried out a vast and democratic rectification campaign to sum up its experiences of the last two years and to correct its shortcomings. The rectification campaign lasted for four months officially, though it is still continuing.

A revolutionary peoples army led by a revolutionary party of the proletariat is characterized, among other things, by its consistent application of the principle of criticism and self-criticism and the correct handling of the various types of contradictions that inevitably arise. The world revolutionary movement has witnessed various pseudo-revolutionary petty-bourgeois movements which are alien to democracy, criticism and self-criticism and which, subsequently "settle" all their contradictions (i.e. within themselves) by shooting one another or fragmenting into various parts.

The EPRA is led by the EPRP, which has proved itself to be the genuine and revolutionary party of the proletariat. As such, its attachment to democracy is deep and free from any demagogy. Democracy, according to our party, EPRP, is not simply a means to mobilize the masses against the fascist regime. On the contrary, the EPRP believes that democracy a crucial feature of its internal make-up and of the kind of society that it wants to establish in Ethiopia. EPRP does not and has never conceived socialism without democracy as

proletarian democracy is undoubtedly of a higher and truer nature than any form of bourgeois democracy. EPRP does not aim to curtail democracy within it on the grounds that it is engaged in a bitter struggle. Democracy is not a luxury but a pre-requisite for the effective functioning of the organization and the realization of its aims. EPRP never tries to stifle/curtail the democratic rights of the masses (in this or that pretext. We do not aim to be another Soviet Union or East Germany, where socialism means dictatorship of a clan of exploiting bureaucrats over the working people. Hence, EPRP's conception of socialism is intrinsically linked with the broadest democracy for the proletariat and the working masses. This has meant that during this early phase of the bitter struggle the EPRP has been and is practicing broad democracy within itself despite its clandestine existence and the ruthless repression launched against it by the fascist thugs in power.

This deep attachment to democracy and this deep faith in the masses has been reflected both by EPRP and its peoples army, EPRA, in their continuous campaign to rectify their errors and sum up their experiences, in their persistent efforts to strengthen the existing practice of collective leadership and committee work and discussion of all issues and questions by all members. EPRP and its peoples army, EPRA, have not imposed themselves on the masses. EPRP respects the autonomy of the mass movements and is opposed to any infringement on their sovereignty by any force or party. EPRP does not push anything down the throats of the people. It has and will continue to make the masses accept its

correct position and revolutionary line through political work and persistent campaigns of persuasion. EPRP is a revolutionary party of the proletariat. It has no intention of replacing the proletariat, it has no intention of imposing itself above and over the working people. EPRA is a revolutionary peoples army and not an armed band winning the following of the poor peasants through terror and demagogy.

Such a party and such an army do not fear criticism and self-criticism. On the contrary, they can't function without it as they will be turned into petty-bourgeois organizations if they allow their errors to continue. Thus, both EPRP and EPRA have carried out a successful rectification movement in which all members have fully participated in a genuine revolutionary and democratic spirit. The rectification movement within EPRP led to the uprooting of the opportunist and revisionist currents which were rearing up their heads inside the party in various spheres of organizational and political work.

Following the party, EPRA held a vast rectification movement to assess its experience, correct its errors and to chart an intensified course of the struggle. The movement was launched by the party and all units of EPRA participated in it. In the four odd months, the various units of EPRA put their experience under revolutionary scrutiny. Have we fulfilled our objectives? Have we mobilized the masses in a revolutionary manner? Have we politicized them? Have we helped them to organize and have we strengthened their organi-

zations? Have we carried out enough military operations against the enemy and is our military preparations and combative spirit satisfactory? Are the areas under our control dotted with organs of popular power? Is the relation with the members of EPRA itself democratic and revolutionary? How was our programme of political education? What about the combat against male chauvinism and the organization of women combatants in EPRA? These and other similar crucial questions were posed and free discussions were held. The results of the discussions, carried out under the chairmanship of fighters elected by other fighters, were then summarised by a committee at the general army level also elected by fighters of the various units and committees. This summary was then scrutinised and discussed by EPRA members. At the same time party members within the EPRA carried out a simultaneous rectification movement focusing on the party's work in the EPRA. The results were summarised in the same democratic manner.

Throughout, the movement was carried out democratically and in a disciplined manner. During the rectification movement EPRA continued its revolutionary task and carried out operations against the enemy. During the movement, women fighters held their first general meeting/conference at Assifat (area under the control of EPRA) and set up their union within the EPRA as one further means of combatting for their emancipation and fighting against male chauvinism.

A revolutionary and democratic basic law (draft) of EPRA was presented by the

party for discussion by the combatants. Amendments were proposed and made. A Committee elected by the fighters drafted the disciplinary law and this was also adopted.

The whole rectification movement was carried in the spirit of criticism and self-criticism and higher unity on a new and strong basis. Democratic centralism was respected. Collective leadership and responsibility has been strengthened. Party committees have started work with a new invigorated spirit of struggle and sacrifice. At the end of the movement, election of members for the committees at all levels have been carried out by EPRA members in general and by party members within the army. EPRP has also named comrades into various committees.

In placing comrades in the various committees, EPRP has followed the democratic method. Primarily all fighters (party members and non-party members) were asked to nominate their choices of comrades that the party should place in the various committees. Thus, the fighters not only elected on their own but also were participants in the party's nomination. Secondly, EPRP placed comrades taking into account the social basis of the party and the EPRA. Thus, workers were placed in the various positions of responsibility along with those from poor peasant backgrounds. In addition; women, democratic soldiers, militant youth, long standing and tested fighters, members of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Youth League (EPRYL), militants of the various mass organizations fighting the fascist regime were represented.

in the various committees and, as far as possible, at all levels. Collective leadership and the leading role of the party have been strengthened. It may be necessary to note that the membership of EPRA is diverse and reflects the vast social base of the party. In EPRA one finds not only workers and peasants but also militant youth, teachers, democratic officers and soldiers..... youngsters of fourteen and mothers of several children who left their family to join EPRA.... from those who use to shine shoes to those who flew F-5 jets or worked as skilled technicians...

The successful carrying out of the rectification movement attests to the revolutionary and democratic basis of EPRP and EPRA. It also gives clear lesson that only through the voluntary and unrestricted participation of the fighters and the masses can a revolutionary movement strengthen itself and achieve its objectives. We take the rectification movement as a historic step in the further strengthening of EPRA. All that is stale, revisionist and opportunist must be cleansed in time. All that is revolutionary and democratic must be preserved and developed. Bringing our shortcomings into the open and getting rid of them democratically is not a sign of weakness or division (as some petty-bourgeois sections who believe in hiding their weaknesses and in settling their differences by liquidating each other may declare) but a proof of our strength and solid unity.

EPRP is more than ever united, combative and revolutionary and democratic. EPRA is more than ever united, combative, revolutionary and democratic.

The Rectification Movement Continues!

AMITSU - Theoretical Organ of EPRA

AMITSU, which is actually a call for rebellion and which means rebel, is the theoretical organ of EPRA. Apart from ASSIMBA, which is the official organ of EPRA, our army has started to issue AMITSU for quite some time now.

AMITSU is designed to be a platform for theoretical discussion. Theoretical issues are raised on AMITSU. Discussion will be held, the army learns and then teaches. AMITSU has become a useful weapon for uniting theory with practice. Different views on questions of theory can appear, theoretical struggle can be conducted on it and then the correct proletarian analysis will be upheld.

With ASSIMBA, on the other hand, EPRA is making tremendous propaganda work especially among the soldiers and so-called "peoples militia". It has proved to be very successful indeed. The rate of desertions of enemy soldiers and "militia" is an ample evidence for this.

EPRA MILITARY COMMUNIQUE

At present, our peoples army, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army, is in a stronger position. After conducting a thoroughgoing internal rectification campaign that started in June this year, EPRA is now more than ever united, more than ever strong and the fighting spirit of its soldiers is more than ever high. In short, EPRA is more than ever a genuine peoples army, experienced, tested in battle, steel ed and embraced by the masses. While its urban wing is punishing political criminals in the cities and towns, putting up sporadic yet organized armed resistance against the fascist house-to-house searches, conducting an armed propaganda, tying down the forces of the enemy in the capital and forcing it to wallow in a mire of desperate frenzy; the main force of the peoples army divided in platoons, company and batallion divisions is actively launching its politico-armed struggle on the road of protracted peoples war.

Throughout the months of August, September and October; the EPRA has conducted intensified political agitation among the masses in the three administrative regions of Tigrai, Gondar and Wollo. It particularly concentrated its agitation among the enemy soldiers and the so-called "peoples militia". The EPRA has continuously called on the soldiers and the peasant "militia" to either quit and live in peace with their families or join the ranks of the revolution. Simultaneously, it warned that the just, revolutionary and invincible peoples war would crush by force of arms all those who obdurately take part in the executions

of the war and genocidal policies of the fascist regime. After having executed continued propaganda and agitational work, EPRA launched armed offensive actions against enemy strongholds in different regions in the north. The following is a summary report of these battles.

1. In a fierce battle recently fought in Tembien district, the EPRA unit involved smashed the fascist troops killing several and wounding many. 200 have been taken as prisoners. Lots of arms have been captured.
2. In a surprise raid at 4A.M. at the army camp in Abey-Adi, capital of the Tembien district, the EPRA unit totally smashed the government troops stationed in the town. Among the many enemy soldiers killed was found also one social-fascist (social-fascist refers to the petty-bourgeois intellectual clique which joined the fascist regime and is doing much of the spy work to get communist and other revolutionaries assassinated.) Two others are held as prisoners while another one, wounded, is now in hospital. The battle lasted till 10 a.m. As the battle raged on, the enemy had already called for reinforcement from Makalle, the capital of Tigray province. Three trucks filled with enemy soldiers headed for Abey-Adi. The EPRA unit, which took its position to ambush any reinforcement that could possibly be dispatched did its job. In the surprise ambush one truck was completely destroyed. The two were completely demolished. Many enemy soldiers were killed, while the rest were all either wounded or held prisoners. Helicopters were all day picking up the dead and wounded; It has been reported that all civilian patients have been forced out from the Makalle

hospital to let in the wounded soldiers.

Students, teachers and others were accused of co-operating with the EPRA during the battle. As a result, many students and teachers have left Abey-Adi before they were all killed by the frantic regime. Many of them went to join the EPRA.

As the news of the complete demolition of the troop reinforcement reached the capital of the province, Makalle, the regime flew in the "peoples militia" by helicopters to Abey-Adi. By the time the "militia" reached the town, all of the town's secret agents had already defected with their arms. The "militia" soon realized that the battle was not just an armed engagement but was also a revolt by the town's people. Thus, they fled back to Makalle. Consequently government employees have as well refused to work for fear of a lack of protection. Thus, the town is out of the government's control now.

3. In a successful ambush against enemy convoy in Gondar, EPRA units have destroyed 50 out of 69 supply-trucks that were heading for Adigrat from Gondar. The army convoy, led by a Captain, was demolished. Many were killed and wounded. 165 soldiers have joined the EPRA. 420 quintals (sacks of 100 kilos each) of sugar, two trucks of meat and other foodstuff have been liberated. The most surprising incident highly indicative of EPRA's popular base was that the peasants of the area brought right away more than 700 donkeys to transport the sugar and foodstuff to the EPRA strongholds.

4. A unit of the EPRA ambushed government supply trucks that was heading towards Adigrat. The EPRA unit liberated 100 quintals of sugar, 80 cans of butter and 150 quintals of flour.

5. In the Bajet and Samne sub-districts of Enderta district, Tigrai province, EPRA units battled with enemy forces. EPRA units killed 5 enemy soldiers, wounded many and held 100 prisoners, mostly from the so "called "peoples militia".

6. The commander of the artillery division in Adigrat, the main artillery force in the northern front, Major Michael has joined the EPRA along with many soldiers. His wife and children have also followed him.

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EPRA Promotes Peasant Upsurges

Having assimilated the Leninist teaching that, "It would be utopian to think that proletarian parties, indeed they can arise in such countries (like Ethiopia-ABYOT) could pursue communist tactics and a communist policy in these backward countries without having definite relations with the peasant movements and without effectively supporting it...", the proletariat is providing proletarian leadership through EPRP and the EPRP is building the worker-peasant peoples army (EPRA) while at the same time it is building the Peoples democratic national united front from the multitude of revolutionary mass organizations, nationality groups, and other anti-feudal anti-imperialist anti-fascist forces in the living movement of agrarian insurrection and the new democratic revolution. EPRP is in the process of building a powerful proletarian movement on the basis of Marxist-Leninist integration with the workers' and peasants' new democratic revolution. In bourgeois democratic revolutions the main controversial question between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and between the

proletariat and all other parties has been the peasant question. At present, the class struggle around which the political forces in Ethiopian society are polarized devolves on the issue of how to solve the agrarian question. The EPRP has worked tirelessly to develop the organizations of the peasantry, to help promote peasant upsurges and local peasant insurrections. In the areas where EPRP/EPRA operate revolutionary peasant committees, peasant armed self-defence militia, peasant associations for the confiscation without compensation of feudal property, popular peasant tribunals etc... are in the process of formation. EPRP believes that only by promoting peasant uprisings and generating peasant initiative can correct conditions to resolve the agrarian question in a revolutionary way ensue. In order to develop armed agrarian revolution in the countryside, it is beyond dispute that the fascist policy of integrating the peasant associations with the inherited feudo-bourgeois state apparatus must be smashed. The following is a translation of the resolution of the peasant masses in Dib Baher Woreda, Gondar province.

Addressed: To All Peasant Association of
Dib Baher

Through the service of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army, the entire people in Tselemt District assembled in the town of Addis Alem for a meeting

At this meeting, we formed a Revolutionary Peoples Defence Coordinating Committee of Tselemt District where there are 20 members who are representatives of the residents of Tselemt. The work of the committee is to unite the people of Tselemt

District in the event of any danger transpiring in the area.

The purpose of the meeting is to deal a determined blow and smash the fascist Derg and the EDU (Ethiopian Democratic Union -ABYOT) wherever these arch reactionaries dare to launch aggression or afflict us again with their remorseless oppression. When we heard from you through the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army we were filled with boundless joy and encouragement. We drew strength when the letter you sent was read by the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army at a time of our deliberations. We felt the stirring animation of the courageous zeal of our brave forefathers. We have vowed never to bow down to the rule of our despicable enemies such as the man-eat fascist Derg, the EDU and other anti-people elements. We are determined to break the enemy's attacks by deflating his arrogance distinguishing firmly between liberation and oppression and by rallying closely with our army, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army. We cannot tolerate the fascists to plunder our houses, to rape our women folk, to slaughter our cattle. We will unite and rally closely with the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army to do wawy with the enemy for good. There is one thing that unites both of us together namely our being oppressed, exploited and being considered as no better than plough share or yoke. Your sorrow is our sorrow, your happiness is our happiness. Be that as it may, by strengthening our unity and uniting exactly as one man, we are determined to demolish our enemies who connive to divide and rule us. We assure you that we the oppressed people of Tselemt District are with you.

Even if the enemy brags, blusters and hollers, no force will appease the peoples' just indignation. Therefore, vigilantly defend as the apple of your eye the masses of people in your respective areas closely. We shall defend our own in this area. If any danger comes, make sure you make a direct call to the people here through the Peoples Revolutionary Defence Coordinating Committee of Tselemt. We will call on you when danger transpires on our side too. With unity we will once and for the last time demolish our enemies.

THE BROAD MASSES SHALL WIN!

GUINBOT 1969

May 1977

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EXCERPTS FROM EPRP's STATEMENT OF NOV.27

Denounce The Secret Strategic Military Committee Formed By Soviet And Cuban Revisionists And The Fascist Derg

The anti-people alliance between the Soviet union, Cuban and Soviet puppets in East Europe on the one hand and the fascist regime on the other is being strengthened.

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party has come to know that the fascist regime of Colonel Mengistu has formed a top-secret and high level military commission aimed at drawing plans for the regaining of territories lost in Eritrea, Ogaden, EPRA strongholds and for the "smashing" of EPRP and the revolution led by it. The Commission is composed of 8 Soviet officers among whom one is a Lt. General, three Cuban officers

and seven Ethiopian officers. The Commission is headed by the chief of staff of the Ethiopian Armed Forces.

The Commission started work in mid-October and has been meeting almost day and night. According to the seven page directive handed out to the members of the commission, the commission is facing the following tasks:

1. raising the technical and organizational efficiency of the army and "militia";
2. drawing up operational plans to "recapture territories lost in Eritrea, Ogaden and EPRA strongholds;
3. drawing up plans to "liquidate EPRP both in the cities and countryside.

To realise this, the reactionary conglomeration of fascist and revisionist officers have been working round the clock for quite sometime now. Members of the committee are not allowed to take notes or bring papers and pens into the meeting hall. Three armed guards stand inside the meeting hall all the time. All this "secrecy and security precautions" did not prevent EPRP from knowing and exposing this or other "secrets".

The hegemonist and expansionist Soviet Union is involved up to its neck in Ethiopia in its quest to fulfill its counter-revolutionary movements in the region and to fulfill its hegemonist ambitions over the whole region. To realise this nefarious anti-people objective it has mobilised all its puppets in the region as well as its tested mercenaries from Cuba and its hirelings from East Europe to assist fascism in Ethiopia. In addition to the continuing economic and massive arms aid to the fascists, the Soviet Union and its puppets have increased their direct military phy-

(continued on page 36)

THE EPRP STANDS UNITED!

The fascist junta, the reformist murderous thugs of Haile Fida grouped around the gang called Meisone, and other reactionaries have all been dreaming for the destruction of the EPRP. Not only dreaming, they have brutally and mercilessly slaughtered and tortured thousands of revolutionaries since the junta declared war against the EPRP more than a year ago. However, realising that the EPRP has continued to grow in strength the junta and its supporters (especially the revisionist scums all over the world) have intensified their campaign of misinformation to confuse the revolutionary forces outside by alleging that the "EPRP is destroyed", etc, etc...

Though these vile allegations may not be worthy of any comment on our part, we shall briefly show the utter bankruptcy of the junta and its supporters and their chronic affliction of incessant lying. Has the junta's barbaric repression destroyed the EPRP? **On the contrary.** Despite and because of the wide spread repression, the EPRP has been embraced by the broad masses and continues to be stronger than ever before. Our political and armed action in the various cities have been heightened. The armed struggle in the rural areas has been intensified and is spreading to various provinces and the quality and number of our revolutionary army-the EPRA- is growing increasingly. There is no other reliable witness to this other than the fascist junta itself which cries daily over the radio about the

spreading influence and growing strength of the EPRP. Such an admission by the junta has been its recent official statement to the nation on October 17 in which it called on the Ethiopian people to renounce the EPRP which, to use the junta's words, has succeeded to "subvert workers, peasants, students, teachers soldiers and the militia" and to make them work "against the revolution." Now, if the EPRP is destroyed why all this hue and cry? If the EPRP is dead who is the "anarchist" (the junta's "name" for the EPRP) the junta accuses almost daily for the death of numerous fascist thugs of the regime?!! The truth is that the EPRP is not only living and getting stronger but proving this to the junta in an undeniable way-by struggling against it daily and dealing it heavy blows

both in the cities and the rural areas.

Is the EPRP divided? A year ago, we were being told that the EPRP has split into several factions. The lie did not live long as the fictitious split could not be seen. Now again, we are being told that the EPRP is divided and fighting amongst itself. There is absolutely no truth in this. The EPRP is not a fascist party nor is it a sect of revisionists a la Kremlin or Havana. As such, it does not settle its non-antagonistic contradictions by violent means. In the EPRP there exists the broadest democracy possible and there is a conscious effort to heighten democracy despite the clandestine existence that the party leads. As such diverse opinions are not only tolerated but they are also encouraged. All views of members are presented and discussed

fully by all members and the party does not take any crucial position without consulting its members and getting the opinion of the majority. The EPRP knows that stifling views on the grounds of unity of thought is counter-productive. Thus all currents and tendencies are brought to discussion and repudiated or accepted by the general membership. Anyone who opposes the stand of the majority and who stands against the line of the party can leave the party. Members who accept the principle of democratic centralism are free to agitate for their views specially if their view is that of a minority.

This being our stand, liquidation of those who differ is not, has not been and will never be our practice. We are firmly and vehemently opposed to this way of settling differences in positions. However,

the EPRP will unswervingly fight all those who actively try to destroy the organisation by collaborating with the enemy or by practically causing concrete damage to the organisation and its members. We are not pacifists or starry-eyed dreamers. We are engaged in a bitter struggle and we shall treat all traitors with hatred and firmness. We define traitors not as those who differ from the line of our party but those who collaborate with the enemy or concretely work to destroy our party by defining it objectively or otherwise as an enemy organisation.

This is our unflinching stand. To come to facts-the EPRP is more than ever united. Through the rectification movement it has uprooted revisionist and opportunist trends (in a political and democratic manner through ideological struggle) and summed up its experience. It is not surprising if

reactionaries take such democratic rectification movements as a sign of strength and revolutionary maturity. That certain individuals unsatisfied with the line of the party, or having turned renegades and opportunists leave the party is nothing surprising. And this does not amount to a division.

The EPRP is united and getting stronger. The junta and its masters know this too well and that is why they go around trying to propagate their dream of division within the EPRP. There are also others, who wave the flag of EPRP while at the same time spread similar junta dreams for the purpose of confusing revolutionaries and gradually erode their confidence on EPRP and then their support to EPRP.

By spreading such lies, the junta, the Meisone thugs, the revisionist scums and others want to confuse the revolutionary forces of the world and to deprive the EPRP of international solidarity. In this way they aim to strengthen the wobbling fascist junta.

However, this is a dream that will remain to be so. The divided and beleaguered junta shall be smashed and neither KGB or Cuban DGI agents of misinformation can give it life. On the other hand, the EPRP will undoubtedly triumph over the fascists, imperialists, revisionists and all reactionaries.

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OUR SUPPORT TO THE ERITREAN
REVOLUTION CONTINUES ...

The Eritrean masses have waged a long and bitter struggle to realise their cherished right to be independent and throughout this period they have endured untold sufferings, paid huge sacrifices and have achieved significant victories.

The revolution of the masses in Ethiopia and Eritrea is intrinsically linked. The revolutionary struggle of the Ethiopian masses contributes to the struggle of the Eritrean masses just as the latter's fight helps the former's struggle for democracy and socialism. This has been amply proven by the February 1974 revolutionary upsurge of the Ethiopian masses. The heroic struggle of the Eritrean masses against the feudal autocratic rule of Haile Selassie contributed to the weakening of the regime and thus affected the eruption of the February upsurge. At the same time, the momentous February revolution of the oppressed Ethiopian masses contributed significantly to the Eritrean peoples' liberation struggle as the events have clearly demonstrated. This all goes to show that, despite the machinations of reactionaries and other nefarious elements, the struggle of the masses is complementary and that there is no enmity or basic difference between the oppressed labouring masses.

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party has been consistent and still is in its support for the liberation struggle of the Eritrean masses and neither the reactionary propaganda of the regime nor the shameful vituperations of petty-bourgeois cliques can hide this fact. During the dark days of Haile Selassie, when EPRP functioned in total clandestinity, it did conti-

nuous political work in various ways and also through legal or semi-legal mass organizations to inform the Ethiopian masses about the just struggle of the Eritrean masses. We only need to mention the huge sacrifices paid by students and by revolutionaries like Walelign Mekonen and others who stood in support of the Eritrean struggle and defied, at the cost of their lives, the regime's repression.

During the February revolutionary upsurge, it was the EPRP, through its organs, which consistently exposed the reactionary policies of the regime on the Eritrean question. It was the EPRP which smashed the "secession spectre" and politicised the masses to see the Eritrean struggle for what it is - a just struggle of an oppressed people for their right to independence. Numerous of our militants were jailed and even killed on charges of being "agents of the forces trying to dismember Ethiopia." The call of the party for peaceful and democratic solution of the Eritrean question based on the aspirations of the Eritrean masses, received widespread support from the masses. Several mass organizations of workers, students and teachers including democratic officers and soldiers came out in support of the right of the Eritrean masses. This is a fact that no one can falsify however hard the attempt.

Since the fascist Derg usurped power in Sep. 1974, EPRP has intensified its principled struggle in support of the struggle of the Eritrean masses. Paying **sacrifices in lives**, EPRP has totally exposed the fascist war mongering junta's genocidal activities in Eritrea. It has mobilized the masses continuously as the various demonstrations of the masses (calling on the junta to stop the war and respect the right of the Eritrean masses) showed to the whole world. EPRP has been attacked and still is being "**accused**" of being "in league with those who want to dismember Ethiopia."

The regime has not limited itself to accusations. It has continued to liquidate our comrades because of their revolutionary stand. One only has to listen to the Derg's radio to assess that the EPRP's position on Eritrea is causing immense problems for the fascist junta. Practically too, the EPRP was the first force to expose the secret planning of last year's "peasant march" (co denamed Raza Project) agitation which aborted the march before it even began seriously), the revolutionary army of the party-the EPRA-stood side by side with Eritrean revolutionaries to fight against the poorly-armed press ganged peasants.

We can go on ... However, it should be clear that we are stating all this not to say that "we have done this for Eritreans" (we are alien to such spirit as we are an internationalist party standing firm on our principles) but to point out to those elements, who may try to launch a campaign of defamation and misinformation on our stand, that they are headed on a dead-end course. The EPRP has stood on the side of the Eritrean masses not to please this or that force there or elsewhere. We have stood in support of the Eritrean masses and paid immense sacrifices for this only because we believe that the struggle of the Eritrean masses is just and that the EPRP as a proletarian party, should give it all-out support.

HOME NEWS

Cases of Rape by Cubans Reported

We reported in the last issue of ABYOT that cases of rape by Cuban soldiers have been reported. More concrete cases are coming out these days as the mercenaries stay longer in the country.

Cuban and Russian military experts are active in the counter-revolutionary war conducted by the fascist regime in the provinces where EPRA is operating and in Eritrea. Makalle, capital of Tigray, is the center of all these activities in the north.

Cuban soldiers in Makalle, particularly those "doctors" in the Makalle hospital, have become well known in their notorious mercenary activities. Quite a number of women nurses of the Makalle hospital have been raped by these Cuban "doctors". Because of the silence of the authorities and their failure to protect the rights and dignity of these women, the hospital administrator has given notice that women in the hospital should be accompanied by their male counterparts.

150 Political Prisoners Executed

Recently, 150 political prisoners from Tigray province were secretly executed. It has become customary that the fascist regime executes revolutionary political prisoners. Just last month it executed 385, then 68 and then 8 political prisoners periodically in the Addis Abeba prison. Now, it executed 150 political prisoners from the Makalle prison. The prisoners were called in on the pretext that they were needed for a "development Project."

Derg Plans Execution of Political Prisoners

The Derg is planning to execute en masse political prisoners held in Addis Abeba under the guise of "taking prisoners out of Addis Abeba for a 'productive labour' in the countryside".

As usual, the idea is being entertained in such a manner that Kebele Association (Zonal Committees) leaders would request that political prisoners from Addis Abeba be taken out of Addis for "productive labour" somewhere. It happened that some kebele leaders are said to have "complained" that the revolutionaries held in prisons "being held in big groups are creating problems by reading, discussing and organizing themselves" and that they had better "be taken to the country side for 'productive labour'. This is, of course, another euphemism for the secret execution of political prisoners. ABYOT announced in September that the Derg is considering the execution of 10,000 young political prisoners. This fascist plan has been exposed by the organized struggle of the political prisoners themselves at the beginning of October with the intensified political campaign by the EPRP from the outside. This movement by the prisoners won the support of the population and in many places demonstrations were staged by the people. Now, the man-eat regime is talking about "taking prisoners out of Addis Abeba for 'productive labour'". This is nothing short of an open declaration that it would secretly execute all these revolutionary political prisoners. The progressive world and humanity has to condemn this most Hitlerite brutality.

Derg Attempts Forced Recruitment To the Army

Recently, the Derg attempted to "fool" students and finally force them to be army recruits. More than 200 students from the Makalle high school who having been picked up on the requirement of being healthy and above 18 years of age, were told that they would be taken to Russia for "higher studies". Instead they were taken to a military camp in Fitcha (a town in Shewa province) and were told that military training was the "higher studies" the Derg had planned for them. The students in one voice denounced this blatant and feudal "trick" and went back to Makalle. Many of them had transportation difficulties. When the news reached Makalle, the people of the town became indignant. Such is the idiocy and stupidity of the gangsters' regime. And such a disgraceful regime is lauded and supported by the big merchants of Migs and Klashinkovs in the Kremlin!

More Arms Purchase From Russia

The Derg's Ethiopia has become a dumping ground of Russian and American weapons by the continuous flow of Russian arms on the one hand and the supply of spare parts equipment for the American F5 fighter planes and other American weapons by Israel and one other government on the other. Apart from the already supplied Russian weapons, the Derg has made another order from Russia of 200 million worth of arms. They are said to include 42 million worth of military vehicles, 30 million worth of spare parts for Mig aircrafts and the rest for other kinds of weapons. Out of these, the spare part equipment for Migs were delivered first. When a convoy carrying

more than 200 military pieces was ambushed by the EPLF on the Asmara Massawa road, 120 of them which were destroyed carried spare parts for Mig 21 aircrafts.

Derg Attacks Amnesty International Defending Massacres As Revolutionary

On Nov. 12, 1977 the derg issued a statement condemning Amnesty International, the international humanitarian organization. It is to be recalled that Amnesty International issued a report sometime last year about the violation of human rights alleging that an estimated 8,000 political prisoners are held in different prisons in Ethiopia.

The Derg's statement alleges that the loud shouting of Amnesty International about the killing of people in Ethiopia is for "they are angry because we killed reactionaries"! It then sarcastically asks "If they say we don't have to kill people, aren't they saying that we have to quit the revolution?"

The fascists whose tutors are the wolves in the Kremlin then try to "justify" their most Hitlerite massacres and inhuman crimes referring to the "history of the Soviet Union", "Marxism" and "Dialectics"! (Sic!) "They say, "The cry to stop the killings is a bourgeois cry. We are in a revolution; therefore, killings are dialectical (Sic!) Marxism supports it. (Sic!) It had been done in the Soviet Union." (Sic!) Of course, what is expected of a trigger-happy killer like Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is tutored to spit out "socialist" demagoguery and rhetorics from the barrel of Brezhnev's Klashinkov? What can be said of such regime, which officially justifies the executions,

assassinations and massacres of revolutionaries it carried out?

EDU in Crisis

News coming from EDU elements in London indicates that the EDU is being faced with a serious crisis within it as Mengesha Seyoum and Nega Tegegne, general secretary and military commander of EDU respectively, struggle for domination of the EDU. The crisis has been intensified since General Iyassu, EDU chairman, who acted as a mediator between the two, resigned. Ras Mengesha's group is said to be represented by Colonel Asrat, the notorious reactionary monarchist with strong connection with American and West German intelligence. The defeat EDU suffered at Humera and its failure to make any significant breakthrough politically has caused strong dissatisfaction in the organization. The present crisis within EDU is very serious and it is believed that the EDU can neither survive it nor solve it.

Seded And the Bandas Continue Killing Eachother

On Nov. 11, the well-known notorious banda, Mekonen Jote, was killed in his car in central Addis Abeba while on his way to his work. Mekonen Jote, was a central committee member of the one-time Meisone, who played an important role in the recruitment of the so-called "peoples militia." As a well known anti-people ready to blow with the wind, Mekonen remained in his official post in the government untouched when the entire Meisone was uprooted.

On November 17, another well known banda, Haile Yesus Wolde Senbet, was killed in Addis Abeba while on the way to his house. He was head of provincial Commission in the ministry of housing.

Fascist Junta Continues Searches Amid Fierce Resistance

After the total failure of its mid-October massive house-to-house searches in Addis Abeba, the fascist regime has again stepped up its unannounced terrorist raids of various districts of the capital. During these fascist and terrorist raids (dubbed "red terror" by the junta) the storm troopers loot houses, rape and kill at will. This terror has been intensified since Nov. 26 in selected areas of Addis Abeba. Once again, the fascists have failed to achieve their aim of destroying the EPRP. On the contrary, on Nov. 26, Binyam Tilahun and two other revolutionary comrades killed and wounded several fascist thugs before they heroically died in the service of the revolution. The same was the case with the three other comrades of the Aware area, who shot dead several of the junta's thugs. Meanwhile, according to the junta radio itself, scores of its reactionary officials, like Worku Tegegne, have been executed by the urban self-defence units of the party. The junta has also carried out anti-EPRP house-to-house searches in Dessie, in Wollo province, Dilla and Negele, Sidamo province and Adama in Shewa province.

Fascist Junta Prepares to Bomb Churches and Mosques

On DEC, 1st, the fascist junta issued a statement warning the people that the "EPRP plans to bomb churches and mosques." This shameful lie has once again exposed for all to see that the junta has not only sunk further into the mire of desperation but that it is also frantically preparing to carry out a series of terrorist bombings in Addis Abeba. The masses know that the EPRP has not and will never resort to terrorist acts. The

masses also know that the

junta's attempt to whip up religious outcry against the EPRP is doomed to fail. For, who in Addis Abeba and elsewhere can forget the fact that the fascist junta has executed several priests and moslem democrats on charges of being members of the Democratic Front led by the EPRP?

In the same statement, the fascist junta has also tried to allege that the urban guerrilla activities of the EPRP are undertaken in co-operation with the ELF. The EPRP has time and again affirmed that its principled support to the Eritrean peoples' struggle will not be changed due to fascist demagogy or terror. However, it is a well known fact that the guerrilla operations undertaken in the cities are done by the EPRP and the EPRP alone. May we also add that we do not at all have Cuban or Russian advisors?

Revolutionary Literature Flourishing

Together with the revolutionary struggle, the revolutionary culture of the Ethiopian masses is developing immensely. Hundreds of revolutionary poems, short stories, songs composed and written by EPRP members and supporters are being circulated clandestinely so much so that the fascist troops have now intensified their confiscation of casset tapes. The poems, short stories and songs are distributed via casset tapes recorders, pamphlets and recitals. The revolutionary poems are all together dynamic and completely new. Moreover, the revolutionary literature is developing in the various languages of the Ethiopian peoples.

In the near future, the EPRP will publish collection of these revolutionary poems, songs and short stories as they

manifest the revolutionary consciousness, optimism, determination, love for the oppressed, conviction in democracy and socialism, firm belief in proletarian internationism, etc.... of the Ethiopian masses, who are engaged in a bitter struggle and whose consciousness, in the process, is developing and forged by the revolution.

Clandestine EPRP and Mass Organizations' Publications Flourish

In Ethiopia, where the fascist junta reigns on a day to day basis, the press is muzzled. Daily, the radio, newspapers and Television, all junta owned, pour out filth and of late this filth has been getting more stinky as more dirty "spices" are added by the Russians. In this situation, the genuine voice of the masses, i.e. the clandestine publications of the EPRP and the various militant mass organizations, are playing a more crucial role than before. Aside from the widely read and popular DEMOCRACIA and LABBADER, the various sectors of the EPRP are producing several papers at the zone, regional and provincial level. Mass organizations like the Ethiopian Revolutionary Proletarians' Union - ELAAMA- (ELAAMA produces the "Voice of ELAAMA". "ELAAMA Tulu Fors", "ELAAMA Abera Gemu", etc..) produced not only their official organs but several other publications at zonal, regional and provincial levels. The proliferation of clandestine and genuinely revolutionary and anti-fascist papers (more than 30 in Addis Abeba alone) has not only confounded the desperate junta but heightened the consciousness and increased the organizational level of the oppressed Ethiopian masses.

(contd. from page 20)

sical presence in Ethiopia.

Following the secret visit of Colonel Mengistu to Havana more than 350 Cuban officers have arrived in Ethiopia in addition to the hundreds of others already present. The Cuban officers have now taken over the Holetta Military Cadet School, outside Addis Abeba, and their demand to form an arms depot that extends to the Siga Meda.


Apart from the Cuban DGI secret police advisors, scores of KGB experts are advising the fascist secret police in Addis Abeba. More than 25 KGB experts of telephone bugging have already bugged around 600 telephones in Addis Abeba alone in an effort to destroy EPRP. The Soviet and Cuban "advisors" have not only drawn plans to "liquidate" EPRP, they have also supervised the interrogation of EPRP members who were later summarily executed.

EPRP has been fighting and will continue to fight the fascist thugs and their expansionist masters. The crimes committed by the fascist regime and the Soviet revisionists will neither be forgiven nor forgotten by the Ethiopian people. Genuine revolutionary forces in the region and the world should cast aside all illusions and vigorously fight the counter-revolutionary machinations of the Soviet revisionists in Ethiopia and the region as a whole. The masses struggling against all forms of imperialist domination are bound to be victorious and doom is the fate that awaits the fascists and their masters.

VICTORY TO THE OPPRESSED MASSES!
(EPRP-FC)

"WE ARE MARCHING TOWARDS VICTORY. THE FASCISTS, OPPORTUNIST INTELLECTUALS (BANDAS) AND THE EDU ARE HEADING TOWARDS DEFEAT. WE ARE BLOSSOMING AND BEARING FRUIT. OUR ENEMIES ARE WITHERING AND FALLING. WE REPEAT THAT ON THE GRAVE OF THE FASCISTS, THE OPPORTUNIST INTELLECTUALS, IMPERIALISTS, FEUDALISTS AND BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISTS WE SHALL BUILD A FREE, DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR ETHIOPIA. WE ASCERTAIN EVER MORE FIRMLY THAT NEITHER FASCIST TERROR NOR THE BUTCHERY OF THOUSANDS OF OUR COMRADES BY BARBARIAN THUGS CAN MAKE US FLINCH. WE SHALL PAY ALL SACRIFICES AND MARCH TOWARDS VICTORY. VICTORY IS IN OUR HANDS. BEAT AND DOOM AWAITS THE FASCISTS."

Taken from one of the revolutionary clandestine papers.



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
-