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EPRA Military Communique

EPRA units in Gondar administrative region launched a major attack on the enemy in Debark, the 4th largest town in Gondar administrative region (province). Debark is situated between Gondar and Adi Arkai, north of Dabat, in the Simien Mountains Range.

The EPRA forces occupied Debark and destroyed the enemy's resistance, killed and captured many. Lots of arms and ammunition have also been seized. (Details will be released later.)

EPRA's victory in Debark is a great achievement at a time when the fascists, social-imperialists and their 'Afrikan Korps' (the Cuban mercenaries) are preparing for a big encirclement and suppression campaign against EPRA. Already, 10,000 soldiers have been deployed in Gondar, Dessie and Adigrat, capitals and a garrison town in the provinces where the main forces of EPRA are operating.

EPRA's victory in Debark also showed that the enemy, no matter how mighty it may appear, can still be hit and his encirclement campaign enforced by Cuban mercenaries can be frustrated. It shows that the Cuban mercenaries will receive quite a good lesson. It also shows that when the enemy advances it is necessary to withdraw and when the enemy relaxes it is necessary to attack him; the longer and the more protracted the armed struggle the better for the revolutionary forces and democratic forces in the area. It shows that the fascists, their social-imperialist masters and their Cuban mercenaries are nothing but paper tigers.

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E D I T O R I A L

VICTORY OVER SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM IS CERTAIN!

The Ethiopian Revolution, the new democratic revolution led by the EPRP is facing one of the most serious challenges which have ever faced other revolutions. The aggressive might of social imperialism has been let loose on the country to bathe the country in blood and to brutally crush the revolution.

In the last four months, the fascist junta has been putting into bloody practice a terror plan laid down by the social imperialists. In several towns and cities, thousands of people have been liquidated, thousands have been jailed and tortured, a virtual reign of terror imposed. The revolution has been confronted with a difficult situation.

In the Ogaden, Cuban mercenary troops have driven out Somali government troops and the fascist junta has steeped up its anti-people "mopping up" operations in the area. Reports coming in from Hararghe, Bale and Sidamo mention massacres of the innocent people in the area by the fascist troops and former landlords armed by the chauvinist regime. On the other hand, the Cuban mercenaries and the fascist troops are continuously being flown into Asmara for a vast campaign against the Eritrean people. To regain control of the areas occupied by the EPRA, thousands of soldiers have been flown in the last weeks into Dessie, Gondar and Adigrat. The junta radio continues to call for a "concerted drive" against the EPRA and the Eritrean liberation fighters. In the cities the terror campaign is called upon to focus also on "small traders."

The fascist terror against all sectors of the population clearly outlines the reality that this regime has failed to gain any kind of support from the people, it manifests that this regime, though given strength by social imperialist backing, fails to have a significant social base. The social imperialist drive to control Ethiopia calls for the liquidation of the EPRP, the Eritrean fronts and all struggling forces. It calls for the breaking of the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses. Thus, the repression and massacres are going to be continued....

With the withdrawal of the Somali troops, the Soviets and Cuban criminals have lost one of their cherished arguments to justify their intervention. Thus, it has become clear to all that the social imperialists intervened not to be "frontier" guards but to neo colonise Ethiopia and consequently to gain control of the whole region.

The EPRP, against whom the brunt of the terror campaign has been directed, has correctly analysed the existing situation. The social imperialist drive against the revolution has caused the loss of life of thousands of people. The Kremlin thugs and their Cuban "African Korps" pose a serious threat to the Ethiopian revolution. Politically, the social imperialists are trying to give the fascist junta a "progressive" color and have stepped up their pro Derg propaganda at the international level. To act as a cover for their anti-people chauvinist plans, they have prepared a so-called "federal plan" that will "solve the national question in Ethiopia".

All the manoeuvres are supplementary. The main weapon of the social imperialists is bloody repression, it is terror.

The present situation is a difficult one. Social imperialism has unleashed its force against the EPRP and the revolution. On the other hand, US imperialism and its regional allies continue to plot and conspire to prop up pro-imperialist forces in Ethiopia and to destroy the EPRP. In this light then, the EPRP believes that the united action of all revolutionary forces against the fascist junta and social imperialism is a must. It believes that the adoption of correct methods of struggle is necessary so as to frustrate the social imperialist ambition of crushing the EPRP and the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses. The political and military exigencies of the present situation must be correctly grasped.

The social imperialist terror against the people will not bring stability to their fascist Derg. The strength they give it is chimeral. Their repression and massacres have only "driven the fish into deeper waters". The terror campaign in the towns and the prepared vast offensive against the EPRP will cause (have caused) numerous deaths. But it is a folly to believe that they have and will succeed to break the EPRP. The social imperialists and their Cuban mercenaries will sink deeper and deeper into the mire. In Ethiopia, they will find their Vietnam. The more they kill the more they assure this, the higher becomes the determination of the EPRP and the Ethiopian masses to crush thoroughly, completely and mercilessly the social imperialist hordes.

FROM FEBRUARY 1974 TO FEBRUARY 1978

THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE CONTINUES UNABATED!!

In February 1974, the oppressed Ethiopian masses rose in a historic and unprecedented fury against feudal and imperialist exploitation. The February Revolution shook the rotten feudal empire to its core and led to the downfall of the autocrat Haile Selassie on September 12, 1974. However, the objectives of the February Revolution were not realised and the masses have continued their bitter struggle against the fascist military junta which rode over the mass revolutionary movement and usurped state power into its hands. The reasons for the continued struggle are found basically within the February Revolution and its aims, notwithstanding certain changes in the situation which have occurred since.

The February Revolution was a popular revolution in many ways. To begin with it was a revolution in which the broad masses participated actively. Workers, peasants, teachers, students, other progressive sectors, oppressed women, soldiers and democratic officers...all participated in it. Hence, the revolution was neither initiated by the military (let alone the Derg clique which emerged sometime in June 1974) nor carried out by them. In actual fact, the military, taken as a whole, stood for their sectarian demands, were easily recuperated, repressed the mass movement, vowed byalty to the emperor and his governments. A mere look at the events from end of February to end of March and beyond suffices to show that the revolutionary movement was sustained and pushed forward by workers' strikes, student demonstration, other popular actions and not by mutinies.

Despite the fact that the broad masses in the country effectively participated in the Revolution, it was workers and other progressive sectors in the urban areas which kept up the momentum of the struggle, deepened its political aims and advanced it to higher level. This preponderant role played by workers and the people living in the urban areas explains the fact why the Derg has found its intense opposition in these areas and why its attempts to find a stable rear have failed up to the present time.

However, the proletarian imprint on the February Revolution was not merely derived from the fact that the proletariat played a leading role in the struggle but also because the demands which galvanised the masses and the ideology that started to gain a hegemonist position was that of the working class. True enough there were demands which were bourgeois democratic rights. However, these demands were presented within the overall framework of the passing of power into the hands of the people and it was clear that in a country which is semi-feudal and semi-colonial, only the proletariat can carry out the democratic revolution to completion.

The February Revolution was also an anti-feudal revolution but it is incorrect to limit its scope to mere land distribution. Land to the tiller was the burning slogan of the revolution and rightly so, as a handful of feudalists owned the land and had reduced the peasants to serfdom. However, the revolutionary demand for land was accompanied by the equally revolutionary demand for a worker-peasant government, for the carrying out of an

agrarian revolution, for the arming of the peasantry, for the running of the localities by the peasants, for the exercise of political liberty, etc.

The demand for nationalisations was also accompanied by a demand for power evolving into the hands of the workers, for the right of workers to control the factories and their produce, for workers to autonomously organise their trade union and to run their localities, etc.

To the national question, the Revolution proposed the right of self-determination of nationalities and nations and the peaceful and democratic solution of the Eritrean question based on the aspirations of the Eritrean masses themselves.

To realise all this and to advance towards the establishment of a popular democratic republic the Revolution forwarded the revolutionary demand for the formation of a provisional people's government composed of all the democratic and revolutionary forces. This and all the other popular demands were supported by the sectors of the armed forces which were conscious and had close contacts with workers and students and the clandestine revolutionary party - the EPRP.

The workers and popular masses were capable enough to paralyze the state apparatus and bring the downfall of the emperor. But they did not have the required strong proletarian vanguard (the EPRP, though it had contributed immensely to the development of the revolutionary struggle, was not strong enough to lead the Revolution) and an armed force to realise the formation of the popular government. Taking advantage of this the Derg assumed power and moved to impose its dictatorial rule. Thus, the takeover of power by the Derg was no victory for the Revolution. It meant that the struggle of the masses had to go still to a higher level and intensify.

During the February Revolution, the popular masses struggled for the formation of a provisional people's government and for the guaranteeing of democratic rights. Specifically, workers struggled for control of their factories, for their trade unions to function autonomously, for a progressive labour law assuring a minimum wage in accord with the rising cost of living to be proclaimed, etc. Peasants struggled for land, for a national equality, for the right to organise themselves autonomously, for an agrarian revolution, for armed action by them against feudalists, etc. Women struggled for their own autonomous organisation, for equal pay, for better working conditions, for education rights, in short for their emancipation from class oppression and male domination.

In fact, the series of demands presented during February show that the masses had put in the forefront the question of power and democracy. Not only demands but they had moved concretely to establish popular organs of power. The Peoples' Committee formed in Jimma (after the masses had chased out the state administrators and jailed the police) and the various popular committees formed in the government institutions, and even the sub-Dergs formed within the armed forces were evidences of this.

The Derg stood against all these democratic and revolutionary demands. It imposed its own reactionary rule and negated the demand for the passing of power into the hands of the working people. It denied the masses

all democratic rights. It banned all mass organisations of the popular masses and hunted their militants. It unleashed a campaign of repression against the EPRP. It maintained its ties with US imperialism and Zionism and later embraced the social imperialists and kept the country dependent. It nationalised some factories and industries under mass pressure but since the workers were denied all rights (to strike means death) the exploitation of workers reached a new peak. It dissolved the sub-Dergs within the army and institutionalized itself. It purged all those soldiers and officers who had supported the mass demand for power (like the Army Aviation and Engineering Corp officers who were executed, for example). First, it repressed the peasants who took land from feudalists and later it was forced to proclaim land nationalisation. The land nationalisation carried out within a framework of a repressive state and in a bureaucratic manner failed to solve the problems in the countryside. In the north, it was hardly carried out and in most of the south where peasants got land the lot of the peasants did not improve appreciably. The repression carried out by the Derg against the peasantry, the uneven distribution of land which led to acute differentiation between peasants, the uprooting of peasants to serve as cannon-fodder in junta's chauvinist war in Eritrea and against the EPRP, the high prices for goods coming from the cities, the absence of a democratic solution to the national question, the continuing oppressed condition of peasant women coupled with the absence of credit, fertilisers, machine, etc have made the Derg's attempt to find a social base amidst the peasants a disastrous failure. Land without liberty, land without agrarian revolution, land without power - such is the practice of the junta.

In the towns houses have been nationalised because the masses struggled for this. However, the corruption prevailing in the junta's state apparatus and the anti-popular and bureaucratic manner in which the nationalisation has been carried out (and also because the regime has built no new houses) has resulted in the scarcity of houses and the aggravation of the suffering of the labouring masses. The Kebele associations, which were envisaged as organs of local self-administration, have been taken over by the junta and turned into police organisations charged with carrying out repression against the people.

The national question has been denied a democratic solution. The regime has raised the slogan of "Unity or Death!" and unleashed war against the oppressed nationalities in the Empire. To the Eritrean people who have been struggling for years to realise their independence the junta has responded with massacres and the empty talk of "autonomy". In the South, it has carried out massive repression against Oromos, Sidamas, etc and using the Somali incursion as a pretext it has carried out a blind repression against the Ogaden Somali population. Engaged in a war that is reactionary and anti-people the junta has liquidated thousands of militants in an effort to destroy the EPRP and halt the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses.

The struggle waged by the masses under the leadership of the EPRP has forced the junta to proclaim certain reforms and to intensify its demagoguery. Thus the junta, which defined itself as anti-communist on September 16/1974 and later adopted "Ethiopia First" and "Ethiopian Socialism", is now proclaiming to the world that it has become "Marxist-Leninist". The junta which cried out that the Military is the leader of the revolution has been forced to verbally admit that only the proletariat can lead the revolution. However, all this is mere window dressing being carried out with the help of the social imperialists.

For four years, the struggle of the masses continues to rage because the popular aspirations remain denied. The struggle continues because the masses want power, democracy and socialism. The people have shown that they are capable and determined to rule themselves. They have amply shown that their vision of socialism is intrinsically linked with democracy for the oppressed masses. They have struggled and will continue to struggle to take state power into their own hands. The essence of the revolutionary struggle cannot be covered by flimsy reform acts or super radical demagogy. What our people want is peoples' democracy and socialism while what exists is a fascist anti-people and anti-democratic regime controlled at present by social imperialism. The EPRP and the masses fought for power to be taken by workers and poor peasants and not by the military, they struggled for land and liberty and an agrarian revolution and not for mere land distribution and increased exploitation and oppression, they struggle against imperialism and did not fight to be slaves of social imperialism, they struggled for socialism and not for fascist rule disguised behind socialist phrases, they struggled for democracy to the oppressed and not for dictatorial rule.

Our people have rejected their slavish existence and are fighting to realise their revolutionary objectives. That is why the February Revolution continues to rage and to burn all reactionaries.

THE OGADEN WAR: THE SOVIET SOLUTION LEADS TO WAR

Cuban and Russian troops spearheading the offensive, the junta's troops have pushed the Somali forces out of Jijiga and other occupied towns. Somalia has openly declared that it has withdrawn its troops. On the face of it, then, it seems as if the military might of the social-imperialists has enabled the fascists to win the war in the Ogaden.

However, the situation is quite the opposite. The fascist junta may win the war against the Somali army, but the real issues of the crisis/war remain unsolved and the war will drag on in other forms. The reactionary war seems to end in favour of the Derg which has the full backing of social imperialism and in the defeat of the Somali regime which has become victim of its own expansionist ambitions and short-sighted views on the international situation. However, the underlying issue, which has been clouded by the war, remains unsolved- and this is the anti-democratic and anti-people rule of the Derg and the denial of the right of the Ogaden Somalis to self-determination.

The position of the EPRP on the situation has been quite clear from the outset. The EPRP has opposed the reactionary war between the two states and condemned it as anti-people and reactionary and which works against the self-determination of the masses involved. While taking this position, the EPRP has also successfully struggled against all attempts to climb onto the chauvinist wagon of the fascist junta which has been trying to divert the class struggle and to mobilise the masses on nationalist grounds. The EPRP has called on the Ogaden masses to struggle by themselves in a revolutionary manner and not to let their cause be pre-empted by the state. While rejecting the Somali claim to vast areas inhabited by a variety of nationalities and while standing against the baptism of the Oromo, the Aderes and Afar masses by the Somali government (which alleges that they are "Somalis"), the EPRP

has vigorously condemned the Derg's repression carried out in Bale, Sidamo, Hararghe. The Derg-Somali war has imposed grave difficulties for the revolutionary struggle of the the Ethiopian masses and has enabled the social imperialists to implant themselves massively and quickly in Ethiopia. The organisational work carried out by the EPRP in these areas has also been affected by the war. Internationally and specially in Africa, the Derg got the chance to appear as a victim of aggression striving hard to maintain the territorial integrity of the country. The fact that Somalia allied itself with Iran, Saudi Arabia and their imperialist patrons also gave some colour to the Derg's demagogic claims to be "progressive".

So long as reactionar regimes exist and so long as the masses are oppressed there will continue to be nationalist struggles for self-determination. The African countries' assertion that territories are inviolable cannot stop this. The crucial problems of nationalities that affects not only Ethiopia but many other African countries can only be erased if the countries concerned are popular, democratic and really socialist ones and have democratically solved the national question.

War is a terrible thing and it entails millions of victims and it cannot be brought to an end so easily, as Lenin had pointed out. The only way we can put an end to the war is by developing the revolution and by making power pass into the hands of workers and peasants led by the proletarian party. Aside from this, the 'solutions' brought by Soviet tanks and Cuban mercenary troops will not be an end to the war but a prolongation of the war and the suffering of millions of people for more years to come.

The realisation of this would lead to the combined struggle of genuine revolutionary forces in Ethiopia, Somalia and the whole region against reactionaries and the two super powers. Only through the revolution can the problems achieve lasting solution. It is in this spirit that the EPRP will intensify the struggle against the fascists and social imperialists and will stand solidly on the side of the oppressed people fighting for their liberation.

EPRP: CHARTING AND APPLYING THE CORRECT LINE

The EPRP has been able to rally the oppressed masses around it and to sustain and develop the revolutionary struggle in the face of the most savage repression unleashed by the fascist junta and social imperialism only because it has adopted a correct political line which responds to the interests of the oppressed and because it has applied this revolutionary line using correct revolutionary forms of struggle.

In charting the correct line and in determining the forms of revolutionary struggle, the EPRP has started from the correct and scientific analysis of the Ethiopian society and the regional and international situation. While avoiding the right opportunist error which overemphasises on the "particularity" of Ethiopia in order to champion capitulation and reformism, the EPRP has also successfully struggled against the dogmatist tendency which mechanically copies books and the experience of other countries and tries to apply them in Ethiopia. Using Marxism-Leninism in a creative way and applying it to the Ethiopian situation, guarding zealously the basic tenets of Marxism and the

positive and revolutionary experience of other revolutions, the EPRP has been able to chart a correct political line and to use various forms of revolutionary struggle to achieve victory.

Concerning the forms of revolutionary struggle to carry out the correct political line to its final objective, the EPRP has successfully avoided rightist and "leftist" tendencies.

1. While taking revolutionary violence as the base it has engaged and continues to engage in political struggle.
2. While taking clandestine work as the base it has carried out open and semi-overt struggle.
3. While carrying out illegal struggle as the main form it has also carried out semi-legal forms of struggle.
4. While taking the countryside as the base it has combined armed struggle in the rural areas with armed struggle in the urban areas.

In this way, the party has been able to mobilise the vast majority of the people and to intensify their struggle. This unleashed might of the masses, expressed in various forms of struggle all over the country, has given the revolution the strength to withstand and subsequently to defeat the fascist and social imperialist reactionary forces.

In the junta's Ethiopia, almost all forms of struggle are illegal. Every protest is a "provocation". Unless one folds one's arms and gets exploited and oppressed, one can hardly escape from "provoking" the junta. The Meisone fascist bootlickers headed by Haile Fida used to argue that to oppose the junta means to provoke it and to push it to be more repressive. This ridiculous position advocating total capitulation did not save the Meisone killers from becoming victims of the junta's repression despite the fact that they behaved so "reasonably" and licked the fascist boots with full servility. In a repressive situation, in a country where democratic liberties do not exist, usage of legal and semi-legal, open and semi-overt forms of struggle are not totally impossible but are extremely difficult, costly and bear little fruit.

The EPRP, while making its strategic choices clear, did use semi-legal and semi-overt forms of struggle. In the early periods when demonstrations did not evoke incredible repression pro-EPRP demonstrations were staged. Discussion groups (legal) were used as forums for agitation, and even the "Revolutionary Tribune" column in Addis Zemen was used for a short time in order to propagate the positions of the party. All other possibilities were exploited and many militants were entrusted with this task. However, the limits of these actions was clear from the outset and they were used with this in mind. Those like Meisone who allied with the junta and went all-out for open, legal and peaceful struggle are now dead and buried (and they did not die peacefully!) or are languishing in jail.

Adopting the correct forms of revolutionary struggle is not an easy thing and errors of a rightist and "leftist" nature inevitably occur. There are those who take the basic choice as exclusive and forget the necessity of carrying out other forms of struggle. Others forget the basic and strategic choice and put a lot of emphasis on the secondary forms. The EPRP has avoided both errors.

While taking revolutionary violence as the base the party has and continues to use, despite the limitations, non-armed forms of political struggle. It has used some legal covers to push its struggle. Concerning the violent struggle and the illegal clandestine struggle it has progressively learnt from its actions and subsequently developed some forms while abandoning others which have proved to be costly or ineffective. While the present stage of our revolutionary struggle does not permit us to explicitly enumerate the various forms of legal and semi-legal forms of struggle our party carried and carries out, we can say that such forms of struggle did contribute to the revolutionary cause. The main point remains that through the use of various forms of struggle, while putting emphasis on the strategic choice, the revolutionary forces can advance their struggle and achieve success, whatever its limitations, in pushing the revolutionary war to victory.

The same holds true for the struggle we are waging in the rural areas and the towns. The EPRP has not committed the "leftist" error which says only the rural areas and considers the towns and cities as negligible. At the same time, the EPRP has avoided the rightist error which puts emphasis only on the cities and forgets the countryside and neglects the fundamental force of the peasants. The EPRP, while taking the rural areas as the base and while putting all emphasis on the building up of a Peoples' Army, it has also carried a simultaneous struggle in the towns and cities. This, started in a concrete situation, has continued and contributed significantly for the development and consolidation of the revolutionary forces and given all-round invaluable support to the revolutionary army and its immense tasks.

That the fascist regime has been forced to undertake such a massive indiscriminate repression is a clear testimony to the fact that the EPRP has charted and applied a correct line and that it has, as a consequence, become one and the same with the oppressed masses. The junta can't distinguish between an EPRP member/sympathiser and others precisely because the majority of the oppressed masses have become the supporters, members and protectors of the EPRP. If the EPRP had charted an incorrect line, if its methods of struggle had not got the approval and backing of the masses, not only this if the masses themselves had not directly been involved in the revolutionary struggle, then the fascist junta could have easily isolated and destroyed the EPRP. This has not happened and will never happen!

The struggle carried all over the country in various ways and the revolutionary war undertaken against the junta entail sacrifices. While the EPRP continues to avoid unnecessary battles and conserve its forces it has and will continue to fight and pay the necessary sacrifices. So long as there is the revolutionary struggle the fascists will continue to kill en masse, to bomb villages, and so on. etc. This reactionary violence will be resisted but it shall never serve as an excuse for abandoning the struggle. The Ethiopian masses, who are the decisive factor, have concretely said that they will pay all the necessary sacrifice to defeat the fascists and social imperialists. With this determination, with the full backing of the masses the EPRP continues to struggle to carry the revolutionary war to victory.

MARCH 8 - LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF OPPRESSED WOMEN!

March 8 is celebrated throughout the world as the anniversary day of the struggle of women for their emancipation from class oppression and male domination. It is a day which has been and continues to be celebrated with vigour and determination by the oppressed women of Ethiopia.

The great majority of Ethiopian women have for long suffered under the yoke of class oppression and male domination. While they have been subjected to the rule of the autocrat Haile Selassie and at present to that of the fascist Derg, they have also been stifled by male chauvinism expressed in "refined" and crude and backward forms. Denied of equality, discriminated in education, hounded as evil by a backward church, reduced to a life of drudgery in the household, the great majority of Ethiopian women have been living a slave's "life"! In the cities, worker women were overworked, under paid and used as objects by employers and other bosses. Thousands lived like prostitutes. Those few who got some education or jobs in government institutions did not escape male domination and oppression.

The oppressed Ethiopian women had more than once rebelled against their existence as slaves. With heroism they proved in the fight against foreign invaders, they had also battled against the reactionary regime and male chauvinism. However, just as the overall popular struggle, their fight lacked vanguard leadership, they were not organised and politically mobilised in a revolutionary manner. Still, their previous struggles, their intense hatred for all forms of oppression, their determination to struggle for their emancipation were all basic factors which made their 1974 February struggle revolutionary and unbeatable.

During the February Revolution, oppressed women played a significant role in the popular struggle. In the various factories, women workers were the most tenacious and determined leaders and participants of the numerous strikes which paralysed the state and made the ruling class manoeuvres at stabilisation mere dreams. And then, on March 17 Ethiopian oppressed women for the first time in their history came out in the thousands demanding equality. Their historic demonstration assaulted the bastion of male chauvinism and made it clear that "half the sky" has risen up the has become a force to be reckoned with. And with this massive intervention of women into politics and the revolutionary struggle, the Ethiopian Revolution gained a new height and a new vigorous force.

The military junta which usurped power and imposed its barbarian rule violated the popular demand for peoples' democracy and socialism. It banned all democratic rights, fought against the mass movements, used terror and demagogy to achieve its fascistic objectives. The junta, composed of the most dictatorial thugs (and all of them men), treated the woman question no differently than it treated all other questions. Verbally it stole the popular slogans and cried its commitment to emancipation of women. Actually, it moved against all the initiatives of the women themselves to organise and liberate themselves. Thus, while keeping all the reactionary chauvinist laws intact (several articles of the Civil Code specify that the woman is the dependant of the "supreme" man), the junta moved to pressurise the Ethiopian Women Coordinating Committee (a committee set-up by women to create a nation wide autonomous women's organisation) and to make it an appendage of the state. Failing to achieve this, the Derg unleashed its repression against the women militants and subsequently dissolved the EWOC.

However, this did in no way stop the struggle of the oppressed women. In fact, the struggle of women for their emancipation has entered a new level. Militating within the party-the EPRP- and in their underground organisation (YeEthiopia Setoch Yetigil Dirijit), Ethiopian women are actively fighting against the fascist junta, the feudal thugs of the EDU and social imperialism. In the Kebeles, young women and their elders struggle within the framework of the clandestine women organisation and the broad EPRP-led Democratic Front. Since last August especially, women have emerged ever more in the forefront of the political and armed struggle in the various towns and cities. Mothers organised withing the Parents' Committees have staged various anti-junta demonstrations, carried legal and illegal forms of struggle and formed several study circles. Women workers organised within the underground ILLAM (ETHIOPIAN Proletarian's Revolutionary Union) are actively struggling to develop the struggle of the proletariat on all fields. Within the self-defence units of the party (at all levels) and that of the clandestine trade union, scores of women combatants continue to fight heroically and to deal telling blows against the fascist thugs. The example of the woman fighter who blew up an armored car and a truck full of fascist thugs and sacrificed herself to let her comrades escape is only one of the many feats of heroism committed by the revolutionary women in Ethiopia at present. The 15 mothers, who were members of the Parents' Committee, and who died shouting "LONG LIVE THE EPRP!" in mid February are vivid proof of the fact that fascist executioners can in no way halt the struggle of the oppressed women.

In the rural areas, the struggle of the oppressed women continues to deepen and heighten. In areas where the Revolutionary Union of Poor peasants (Yediha Arso Aderoch Abiyotawi Mahber) is active, peasant women are clandestinely organised within it to struggle against the fascist junta. At the same time, the clandestine women's organisation continues to spread its organisational and politicisation work and hundreds and thousands of women are progressively being organised in various ways. Thus the formation of a nation-wide revolutionary autonomous women's organisation is not going to be distant.

The EPRP has consistently struggled for the emancipation of women. It has championed and actively contributed to the struggle of women to organise themselves autonomously. The EPRP has decisively fought for the organisation, politicisation and mobilisation of the working women. This position of the EPRP has not been formal or verbal. It has been concrete and continues to be put into practice. And that is why thousands of women both in the countryside and the towns are the bulward of the EPRP.

The active participation of women within the EPRP and the organisations supporting its political line attests to the fact that working women have found in the EPRP the effective proletarian leadership they were looking for. Women are not merely members of the EPRP but are carrying out responsible functions as members of the various leading organs of the party (from the central Committee to the lowest organisational level); Within the EPRA, women are not only fighters but also carrying out complex functions as members of the various committees (from the Higher Military Committee down to the Platoon Committee and from EPRA's Higher Party Committee down to the Platoon Party Committee) and have formed their own union in order to advance their struggle and to fight male chauvinism within and without.

March 8 was been celebrated by the oppressed Ethiopian women in a revolutionary manner by intensifying the struggle against the fascist Derg and social imperialism. In the areas controlled by the EPRA, the day has been publicly celebrated with more vigour and enthusiasm than last year. In Addis Ababa and other towns, the struggle against the fascist terror highlighted the March 8 celebration. Clandestinely and openly (in the EPRA areas) the day, which is "a token of invincibility and an augury of the great future which lies before the liberation movement of the working class", has been celebrated by Ethiopian women dedicated to struggle ever more firmly for their emancipation.

MEISON'S "NEW" TUNES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

True enough Meisone never pretended to be a party at first. As its name implied, the "All Ethiopian Socialist Movement", it posed as a movement and if it ended up being a movement confined to the imperial palace and some government institutions, it is no one's fault but that of its reactionary line and its anti-people leaders like Haile Fida, Negede Gobeze and some others like Kebede Mengesha and Daniel Tadesse.

In the early days of the February Revolution there was a small group in Addis Abeba which used to put out leaflets, later to be called "Voice of the People", supporting the demand of the EPRP and the broad masses for the formation of a popular provisional government. However, when Haile Fida returned to Ethiopia after a prolonged sejour in Europe, along with his tetinue, this group underwent a transformation. The local elements who supported the popular demand and stood against the junta were purged. The reformist and reactionary group of Haile Fida took over and later emerged as Meison (or the AESM). Starting with full support to the regime while being outside of the regime and moveing fast to giving full support (in practical sense) to the regime by being the actual functionaries of the regime, the Haile Fida group emerged as the most ferocious enemy of the struggle of the oppressed Ethiopian peoples.

Meisone argued that "the Derg is progressive" and should be given support by revolutionary forces. Hiding behind the slogan of "critical support" the Haile Fida group allied itself with an anti-democratic regime that whould have been critically and firmly exposed and combatted. Leaving aside the reformist claptrap about "critical support" let us look briefly if the Meisone grouping did employ this. Primarily, a party or group that allies itself with a regime under the watchword of "critical support" must have its own independent existence, must have a strong base and must be critical of the regime's anti-democratic actions while extolling and supporting its progressive ones. We do not subscribe to this opportunist fantasy but that's what its exponents say. Meisone talked a lot about critical support but in practice it not only supported each and every anti-people actions of the Derg but it initiated these repressive acts itself.

Meisone was the organiser, the ideologue, the propagandist and the executioner for the Derg. Meisone filled the bureaucracy, run the so-called

Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs (POMOA), etc. At a critical time when the junta was besieged by the mass revolutionary movement and cornered, Meisone mercenaries came to its rescue and beautifying the fascist regime through "Marxist" phrases carried out a wide and extensive campaign of confusion and repression. Together with the full and unconditional backing to the DERG (so much so that there was absolutely no difference practically between Meisone positions and that of the Derg) they undertook the physical liquidation of militants and progressives from all sectors.

Specifically:

1. Meisone undertook a wide campaign against the formation of a provisional peoples government and struggled for the maintenance of the military regime. It labelled this popular demand for the formation of the provisional peoples government as a "reactionary petty-bourgeois demand."

2. Meisone not only pushed for the banning of the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions, the Ethiopian Teachers' Association, the Ethiopian Women Coordinating Committee, etc but it zealously worked to form a pro-Derg, Derg-controlled trade union, women's union, etc.

3. Meisone spearheaded the ferocious villification campaign against the EPRP and labelled the EPRP as an "enemy organisation that must be destroyed by force immediately".

4. Kebede Mengesha, Chairman of the Addis Abeba POMOA and central Committee chairman of Meisone was the first to propose the carrying out of house to house searches in Addis Ababa. His proposal presented to the Derg in a written form were later applied causing the loss of so-many lives amidst the people.

5. Long before the Derg declared total war against the EPRP (September 1976), the central committee of Meisone gathered to vote death sentence on a list of EPRP members and sympathisers. The list was forwarded to the Derg and served as the first base for the massive man-hunt carried in Addis Ababa and other places.

6. The members of Meisone organised within the POMOA and within the Kebeles carried out direct repression on the masses. The examples are many but suffice it to mention that the central committee member of Meisone, Negede Gobezie, led the assault on assembled university students and personally killed scores of students. Abdullahi Yusuf, a leading Meisone member, brutally tortured and killed scores of workers and students in Harar, Dire Dawa, etc.

7. On the eve of May Day 1977, using an anti-Derg demonstration as a pretext, Meisone armed groups roamed according to a predetermined plan killing more than 1000 people, majority of whom were young anti-Derg militants.

8. The Meisone leaders evolved the Peasant March project on Eritrea and the EPRA areas in Tigrai in 1976. This project, code named Raza Project was defended by Meisone leader Negede Gobezie (in a talk to Ethiopian Ambassadors in Bonn) as a revolutionary action against "reactionary separatists".

9. when the Derg members restructured the Derg and reduced the dictatorial powers of Mengistu and tried to curb the killing spree undertaken by Meisone, Haile Fida and his clique schemed and plotted with Mengistu and stage a coup d'état in the palace and executed Major Moges, Teferi Benti and others.

Meisone worked hand in glove with the dictator Mengistu. Their policy was not critical support but uncritical and unconditional backing. And this is hardly surprising as the dictator was implementing the actions drafted and worked out by Meisone. Meisone wanted to be declared the legal and only party ruling the country. On this, Mengistu had other ideas. His own group, Sede, was being inflated by forced and whole sale "recruitment." The contradiction between the dictator and the Haile Fida Group grew and it was not long before Meisone fell like a house of cards. The social imperialists who used Meisone as a bridge to establish good relations with the Mengistu regime knew quite well in which plate they could find their goulash and so remained allied to Mengistu and are helping him establish his "party."

Meisone was not a group within the camp of the revolution. It had slipped from reformism into outright crime against the people.. Meisone members were killers, informers, anti-people vermins. As such, they have been subjected to the wrath of the people and have paid for some of their crimes.

Nowadays, a central committee member of Meisone who has escaped to Europe, the killer and torturer Negede Gobezie, has been giving press interviews in which he has tried to sing "new" tunes and to make it appear as if Meisone had been championing the demands of the masses! Let us briefly look at this "new" position of Meisone (or what has remained of this group).

1. Meisone now claims that it fights for the democratic rights of the masses and the immediate promulgation of these. The truth is that when the EPRP raised the slogan of "democratic rights to the masses without any restriction", Meisone led the attack against this revolutionary demand and labelled it as a reactionary demand of "anarchists." One can refer to the various newspaper articles written by Meisone members and the various issues of the Meisone paper, "Voice of the People," to see that this group stood against the demand for democracy and favoured the continuation of the military rule without any democracy till the "masses become conscious". In fact Meisone argued time and again that democracy did exist under the Derg's rule.

2. Meisone now claims that it was opposed to the peasant march (Zemetcha) against Eritreans, etc. However, the truth is that the conflict between the regime and Meisone was only as to who (Meisone or Sede) will lead the peasant militia. Making this amply clear, Meisone commented in its organ, "Voice of the People" (No. 59, June 1977), in the following terms:

"Meisone is not a petty bourgeois pacifist or peace worshipping organization. Thus it supports all the actions in Northern Ethiopia or other areas taken to liquidate reactionaries and to safeguard Ethiopia's revolution and unity." (This was written explicitly to counter the

"rumors" which, according to Meisone asserted that Meisone was against the peasant march on Eritrea, etc)

3. Meisone now claims that it supports the Eritrean people's struggle to self-determination and independence. This is another lie. Meisone had been attacking the EPRP as "reactionary" because the EPRP supported the right to independence of the Eritrean masses. Meisone had been crying "death to Eritrean separatists!" in Abyot Square and in its publications. In fact the aforementioned issue of "Voice of the People" explicitly stated on page 3 that "Meisone does not support the separation of Eritrea... and Meisone believes that the solution to the Eritrean question is not independence but the strong unity of the nationalities of Ethiopia."

Meisone's new tune is, in short, as false as its previous affirmation of critical support and other related hodge podge. It is another attempt at deception by a group which has taken deception as principle. Meisone tried to play with another devil in the form of Mengistu and found out that the dictator and his followers are as cunning and as devoid of morality as them. Meisone is a victim of its own crimes and if the regime it has tried to strengthen turns against it, we can only say that they have got what was coming to them. The Meisone riff raff brought social imperialism into the country and has now found out that the Kremlin criminals have abandoned them and glued themselves to the military thugs. Thus, Meisone may try to wear anti social imperialist masks just as it is trying to echo the mass demands which it had been fighting against so ferociously just a few months before.

Meisone did a lot of damage to the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses. Meisone caused the death of countless invaluable militants of the EPRP and the broad masses. Meisone no longer exists as a viable group let alone a movement. However, the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses continues to rage unabated. The EPRP continues to grow stronger and to deal heavy blows to the enemies of our people. The fate of Meisone shows all opportunists to what end they will come and that all their machinations are futile and will not succeed to destroy the EPRP and the mass revolutionary struggle.

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"Against the social-traitors, against reformism and opportunism, this political line can and must be followed in all spheres of the struggle without exception. And then we shall win the working masses. And with the working masses the Marxist centralised political party, the vanguard of the proletariat, will take the people along the right road to the triumph of proletarian dictatorship, to proletarian instead of bourgeois democracy, to the Soviet Republic, to the socialist system."

LENIN

ERITREA: THE SOVIET MANOEUVRE MUST FAIL!!

The Soviet Social imperialists are striving frantically to turn Ethiopia into their colony and to exploit our people blindly. At the same time, the Moscow hegemonists are advocating the "sanctity of Ethiopia's frontiers" as if they had not been the most notorious violaters of other nation's frontiers. The aim of the social imperialists is quite clear- they want to control Ethiopia and at the same time they want to assure that "their" Ethiopia assumes full control of Eritrea as Moscow needs the Red Sea ports as part of its grand hegemonist design in the whole region. Thus, the social imperialists manoeuvres vis a vis Eritrea.

The Kremlin expansionists have forked tongues to arrive at one objective- domination of the people. On the one hand, they arm the fascist junta and pour in their mercenaries to fight along side the Derg's troops against the EPRP, the Eritrean masses, etc... On the other hand, they throw statements and declarations in order to cause misconceptions in the ranks of those who fight against the junta. Thus, while Soviet, Cuban and South Yemeni officers are active in the war front in Eritrea, the Cuban Vice-President Rodriguez makes an official statement to the effect that Cubans will not fight in Eritrea as the Eritrean question is an "internal question that must be settled peacefully"!! That this deceifful statement has confused some can be gauged from a statement made by an ELF representative in Rome who considered the declaration as "positive", according to press reports.

The Soviet and Cuban murderers cannot talk of peace because they are invaders and aggressors and war-mongers. Their active support to the fascist junta (and they can't deny that their officers are in Asmara and Massawa) belies their declaration. In this light then, it becomes clear that Rodriguez's statement and other Soviet manoeuvres have only devious objectives aimed at the destruction of the Eritrean people's struggle for their legitimate right to independence.

The social imperialists concretely aim at putting the liberation fronts off-guard, at aggravating the conflict between them, at creating armed conflict between the fronts, and then at forcefully destroying the liberation movements. This is their cardinal aim. War and not peace. Subjugation and not independence. At the same time, the social imperialists are playing double games, as some observers have commented. The Moscow neo-colonisers have found their control of Ethiopia quite slippery. This has many reasons. One is the fact that their beloved fascist junta is hated and resisted by the masses under the leadership of the EPRP! Their junta has not found the stability necessary for Soviet exploiters to safely fleece the country. Secondly, their junta itself is unreliable. The recent US overtures to Grazziani MENGISTU (sending of envoys, promise to send a US ambassador to Addis Ababa soon, the sell of one million American Dollars worth of vitally needed jeeps, trucks and other related materials, coupled with America's call to the Somali governments to withdraw its troops from the Ogaden) have not been without any impact. Mengistu, a notorious fascist and opportunist, has never been known for his firm stand against US imperialism. Last year when the Derg was restructured and his power reduced, Mengistu opened secret contacts with the US embassy in order to get their help for a coup against Teferi Benti-Moges and others. (The USSR gave the backing for the coup). Thus, the Russians know that Mengistu who allied with them out of his crave

to maintain his power can also ally with another devil.

Added to this, the Soviets are also worried that once the Derg achieves control of the Ogaden their indispensability may be reduced. For, it is also a well-known fact that quite a few officers within the Derg and a great number of officers and soldiers within the armed forces are opposed to the Soviet control of the country. Worried and frantic, the social imperialists have started to manoeuvre. Their declarations directed towards Eritrea also fall within this scope just as their flirtations with Mengistu's rival within the Derg, the butcher Lieutenant Legesse Asfaw and their attempts to have the pro-US elements within the Derg (like Birhanu Bayh, Endalle Tesema, etc) purged and liquidated.

The EPRP believes that all Eritrean democrats and revolutionary forces should see through this manoeuvre and frustrate the social imperialist machinations. The Social imperialists are not a friend or a "strategic ally" just acting queerly because they are "misinformed". The social imperialists are the enemies of the oppressed people, they are inherently anti-people, they are against self-determination of the oppressed in all areas. They have honey on their lips but have naked imperialist greed in their hearts. They surely do use two knives to cut the piece of meat as the Ethiopian proverb goes, but they are out to cut the meat and swallow it.

The EPRP has and will continue to fight against the social imperialists and all their machinations be it in Ethiopia or Eritrea and other places in the area. This is consistent with its principle and in accord with its stand on the Eritrean question. The EPRP has supported the independence of Eritrea as this is the clear demand of the majority of the Eritrean masses and as this is a useful step for the persecution of the class struggle in Eritrea and Ethiopia. While believing that the successful transition to a socialist Eritrea can only be assured under the leadership of a proletarian party, the EPRP supports the liberation fronts struggling for Eritrean independence as this is the undeniable aspiration of the masses.

The concerted and firm struggle against social imperialism is a must. To entertain illusions on this will lead to being crushed in the stinking embrace of the hegemonists. Principles dictate this struggle against the social imperialists.

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FASCIST TERROR TURNS ON ITS BACKERS

The fiery advocates of all-out terror against the EPRP and the masses used to be the MEISONE clique headed by Haile Fida. However, things have changed, and the fascist junta has broken with MEISONE and carried out a mild repression against them. In the last month, the junta controlled mass media has been calling on the "intensification of the Red Terror against the (MEISONE) rightists". Thus, the exponents of fascist terror are going to become its victims. And in the coming weeks we may very likely witness the liquidation of scores of MEISONE leaders and followers, including those already under arrest like Haile Fida, and those in hiding like Terefe W. Tsadiq.

N E W SNATIONALTHE JUNTA'S WHITE TERROR CONTINUES

The fascist military junta (Derg) has continued its massive repression throughout Ethiopia against all democrats, and revolutionaries particularly those alleged to be EPRP members. ABYOT will devote an entire section of its coverage on National News (beginning with this issue) to the regime's murderous acts, some of which it reports in its media. The most extensive form in which these barbarous pogroms are carried out is through what the regime calls "'red' terror," but which actually is nothing but WHITE TERROR directed solely against the EPRP and the masses. Since December, this terror campaign, planned by the Social imperialists has cost the life of thousands of people.

ADIGRAT- N. Ethiopia:

According to a report on Addis Abeba Radio "red terror has been intensified" in Adigrat, about 35 Kilometers from the Eritrean border. Reports from the area speaks of arbitrary arrests of peasants in the Junta's drive to "open the route to Asmara" from the south. The terror campaign began during the first week of March after the regime has brought 15,000 troops into the Adigrat-Zalambessa area.

So far, as of 13 March, in Adigrat alone by the Derg's own admission, 91 persons have been "put under control." Of these, 61 were teachers (over 65% of the entire teachers of the town) who were beaten and arrested following a meeting called by the authorities to "expose" anti-junta elements.

Siro District - C. Ethiopia:

Government troops in the Qobo Wadie area of Arsi raided rural villages and killed 5 peasants who put up resistance. After the raids, the junta's soldiers confiscated 7 oxen and 27 horses, mules and donkeys. These anti-people actions, carried out between 27-2-78 and 1-3-78 was reported by the government controlled mass media as punitive measures against "infiltrators from Somalia"- a euphemism for all resistance by peasants and nomads in southern, central north-eastern and south-eastern Ethiopia.

HARER, ADELE- N.E. ETHIOPIA:

In an operation led by Lt. Col. feleqe Beyene, a member of the ruling junta, an intensive terror campaign was conducted during the first week of March in above towns. The State radio reported (4-3-78) with great fanfare the murder of "14 EPRP members," amongst them "Birouk Wendafrash, Girma G. Mariam and Tamirat Yimru." The radio also admitted that "many" other anti-junta "persons have been put under control." The regime claimed that "arms and anti-gov't literature" was also impounded.

The reports of the "arms" findings is a frequently used pretext to commit wanton murder. Other sources in the Adele district say however, that the campaign composed of troops and some former land-owners (who had been re-armed by the junta "because of the Ogaden war") brought untold damage on peasants' farms and huts. The figure of those killed by the regime's thugs run into hundreds. What is more the number of people "put under control" (arrested) is nearer 1000.

The terror campaign was not limited to Harer and Adele but was also extended to Haramaya (Alem Maya), where 18 revolutionaries were shot dead in cold blood.

SOUTH OF ADDIS ABEBA- C. ETHIOPIA:

The reign of white terror which the junta has un-leashed through out the country has particularly been intensive in the Gurage regions of Central Ethiopia. Among those who were killed are revolutionaries who have for long consistently stood with the broad masses of Ethiopia. They include: Langamo Rahmato, Mukro Shifu, Mulugeta Endeshaw, Nesro Fano, and Belachew Fantaye.

The districts in which these genuine fighters of the revolution were martyred has remained, from the beginnings of the Revolution in Feb. 1974, a strong centre of resistance.

DESSIE- N. CENTRAL ETHIOPIA:

In a frantic and desperate move, the junta's representatives in the important north-central regional capital of Dessie, ordered the youth to "join the governments's "camp". And as if to warn the masses opposed to it the state radio announced (17.2.78) that "150 EPRP members were arrested." Twenty-two of these were cowardly murdered while in detention.

The counter-revolutionary activities of the Derg has continued, and as of 29-3-78, a total of 253 communists and democrats had been murdered under various pretexts.

Despite the massive repression, the masses have continued to resist. And the EPRP, as the vanguard of the Ethiopian peoples' revolution, will continue to carry the red banner high in the struggle against the fascists, social-imperialists and the feudalists.

HAWASH (AWASH)- E. Central Ethiopia:

The authorities in this small railway town have threatened the entire population with imprisonment and torture, unless they exposed the EPRP members amidst them. The first so-called "exposure-campaigns" were carried out on 12-13/2/78 and what the regime described as "25 EPRP members" were "exposed." The so-called "exposure-campaigns" is a 'theatrical' farce where people are assembled, and then junta

informers begin "exposing anti-revolutionaries." Also in Hawash, 9 electric power workers were arrested following a government-sponsored meeting. The 'crimes' supposed to have been committed by the workers was that "their views did not correspond with those of the Derg." Five of the workers were temporarily released after tension began mounting in the town.

SHASHEMENE- S. ETHIOPIA:

One of the many centres - rural and urban - where armed and "peaceful" resistance is being conducted against the Derg is the town of Shashemene and its surrounding countryside.

The junta's numerous attempts at intimidation of the masses have continuously foiled by communists & democrats of Shashemene and revolutionary peasants of the adjoining rural areas. The authorities later resorted to out right berror- shooting any one who opposed them in any way. Following one of the so-called "search campaigns" in Shashemene town recently 37 revolutionaries and young peasants were arrested. One of them, Essa Ebo, is a well known revolutionary in the area. All of the detained have been accused of being "members of the EPRP."

DIRE DEWA- E. ETHIOPIA:

Repression against the masses, particularly the workers, has been a common feature for decades in Dire Dewa, the third largest urban centre in the country. This was true under Haile Selassie as it is today.

The regime, has after numerous un-successful attempts to cow the working population responded to outright fascist measures. In one day alone last February, 326 workers were arrested from one factory- the Cotton Factory of Ethiopia. Over 100 were also arrested at the same factory a month earlier. Others from the cement factory, railways and transport services were also detained. According to statements by the regime workers' leaders 'suspected of EPRP sympathies have been liquidated.'

AWASA- S. ETHIOPIA:

The State radio claimed (18 & 19-2-78) that a total of 118 "EPRP members have been released after having given them political education". But according to reliable sources, a totally different picture emerges. The number of young peasants, soldiers, students and teachers rounded up is as high as 2765. Out of this figure, 118 were 'released' (as reported) but 50 were picked up three days later! Government claims of prisoners' release, is used to hood-wink international opinion, since the Ethiopian peoples experience its deceptions daily.

GONDER - N. ETHIOPIA:

A member of the Derg, in a speech to "110 prisoners who were pardoned" (State radio - 24-2-78) stated that the "government will not make any distinction between young and old, (there were a number of 12 yr. olds and elders in their 60s) men and women, and if any one is found accused of anti-government activities, revolutionary measures (executions) will be meted to them."

ABYOT says: the "pardoned" prisoners did not need any pardoning! For

they committed no crime. As for the threats by the Derg member to carry out further murders, it is the voice of a desperate man, as many regions of Gonder come under the advancing Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army (EPRA).

JEMJEM DISTRICT- S. ETHIOPIA:

A fierce class struggle in the rural Jemjem District has been going on for the last 4 years. It was here that one of the first armed clashes between landlords and peasants erupted in 1974.

To combat the just struggles of the masses against class and national (almost all the peasants suffer under big-nation Amara chauvinism) oppression, the junta has deployed a large force in the district. However, no amount of repression has been able to drive a wedge between the masses and their party, the EPRP. In addition to the militant peasant struggles, there are oppressed nationality movements in Jemjem and neighbouring districts. The junta labels all these forces- "infiltrators from Somalia"- to cover-up the nature of the struggles from the rest of Ethiopia and to help it whip-up national chauvinism.

It was this type of deception that a junta radio announcement (23-2-78) highlighted. In that broadcast, it stated "...members of the militia together with veteran soldiers (in Jemjem and other southern regions; usually former medium landowners and bulwardk of Haile Selassie regime), have wiped out 94 Somali soldiers and captured a large number of cattle and 50 grain stores."

ABYOT need hardly comment further than that the said captured cattle and grain stores belong to peasants of Jemjem and not to "Somali infiltrators." It was a pretext that the former landowners, now re-armed, use to take back the land they 'lost' in the still raging class struggle.

ADDIS ABEBA:

1. The Ethiopian News Agency reported (22-2-78) that "an 80-year old man hanged himself after the search squads found a cache of arms." The old man, Tekle Wold Gabre, according to residents of Qebele 13 was "not physically able to hang himself." As for the arms cache the Agency reported, the search sward could only find a World War I mauser with some bullets! Yet the junta un-abashedly as usual poured out its lies.

2. Secret terrorist units of the junta under East German direction, planted bombs and other explosives in several public places around addis Abeba during the second week of February. The objective behind this counter-revolutionary plan, as was attempted last year, is to put the blame on the EPRP. However, residents of the capital and other not too subservient observers fully know who was behind it. The Imam of the Great Mosque in Addis Abeba, condemned one of this acts which killed many of his worshippers, and squarely put the blame on the military junta. Since he gave that statement, the Imam who is in his seventies, has not been heard of.

3. The so-called "'red' terror" campaign has continued to affect all factories and government departments. One such department is the Central Statistical Office. A radio news bulletin (16.2.78) said that "employees of the department have been running away from their work

place in large number, and hence it has become necessary to put a stop to this." It is to be recalled the broadcast added "that as a result of red terror the number of workers who have been put under control and action taken against has increased. Those who have been exposed as anti-revolutionaries had taken over the discussion groups of the department and used it to sabotage gov't plans for the war mobilisation," mostly aimed the revolutionary forces.

HARER- E. ETHIOPIA:

The Derg and its Soviet social-imperialist and Cuban mercenary masters trumpet to the world that the puppet regime is strong and the EPRP, "destroyed." However, every day reality is different. Even the junta's official reports un-wittingly confirm that they are still not accepted by the masses, and that the EPRP is very much alive and kicking the enemies of the revolution where it hurts.

In a despatch (21.2.78) from Harer, the Ethiopian News Agency announced that 9 "EPRP members from Quebele Nos. 8, 9 and 1-" have been detained. This was "part of an overall plan to wrest the city from the EPRP control"

The same despatch said that a woman teacher of the Yeshi-Imebet School was arrested by "search squads" as she attempted to flee her house on foot "with 7 hand grenades, and 6 pistols."

OTHER BRIEF ITEMS:

ILLUBABOR REGION - W. ETHIOPIA:

In its drive against revolutionaries and democrats, the junta's representatives in this western region, have carried numerous murders and arrests. Among those arrested lately, according to a radio broadcast from Addis Abeba are two teachers: Yitbarek G. Igzi and Adinew Adamu.

HAIQOCH AND BUTAJIRA - C. ETHIOPIA:

Following "house to house searches" by junta thugs in these two districts south of Addis Abeba, about 60 peasants, youth, soldiers and teachers have been arrested. A radio statement alleges that "35 of these are EPRP members."

CHEBO AND GURAGE- C. ETHIOPIA:

In other nearby districts, 13 anti-junta democrats were murdered while 625 students, have according to official reports, been arrested on suspicions of being supporters of EPRP.

In the town of CHEHA the junta's murder squads killed, Ankano Gabre and Beferdu Beliho.

COFFEE AND SOCIAL- IMPERIALISM

Ethiopia's major item of export is coffee. This earns the country about 60% of its foreign currency. U.S. imperialism which has been Ethiopia's chief trading partner still receives 75 per cent of the exported coffee.

However, this situation is slowly beginning to change, to the chagrin of some senior Ethiopian officials, including the Derg. As Ethiopia is being more and more mortgaged to Russian social-imperialism and the revisionist countries, she is being forced to export her coffee in that direction as well.

Already, Ethiopian coffee is being sold to East Germany and the U.S.S.R. at 15 percent below the international market price. Not satisfied with this exploitation, the new Kremlin/Czars have recently quadrupled the price of coffee to Soviet citizens.

This confirms once more what Stalin said, that "imperialism is not just interested with any profit but super profits."

CASTRO AND SOME " FIGURES"

"Imperialism and neo-colonialism left in Ethiopia 15,000 lepers, 450,000 victims of tuberculosis, six or seven million victims of malaria and 14 million victims of eye disease, illiteracy (90%) and malnutrition."

F. Castro in GRANMA, Feb. 12, 1978

In just a few months social imperialism and Cuban mercenaries have killed more than 35,000 people in a terror campaign in all Ethiopian cities, slaughtered around 45,000 people in Hararghe/Ogaden, have driven hundreds of people insane through torture and bestiality, and are engaged in the virtual wiping out of a whole generation of Ethiopians.

Is this the social-imperialist way of liquidating the sequels of US imperialism?!!!

FROM "ANARCHIST" TO "TROTSKYITE"- THE JUNTA'S LIES

Mao Tse Tung had said it is good when the enemy attack us, paints us black and accuses us wildly. The fascist junta, continues to wildly accuse and smear the name of the EPRP. It has called the EPRP "fascist", "feudal", "CIA agent", "anarchist", etc. And now, as if it has found another food label, it has started to label the EPRP "anarchist and Trotskyite". That these two tendencies are not the same does not worry the junta.

The EPRP, which is a Marxist-Leninist Party, had a clear stand on Trotskyism long before even the junta's top dogs heard the word "socialism". As a Marxist-Leninist Party opposed to all anti-Marxist trends (like Trotskyism, anarchism), the EPRP has emerged as the undisputed vanguard of the proletariat and no amount of vilification and name-calling is going to change this. We say with Enver Hoxha " The old truth has been proved right once again. They are

employing empty phraseology, labelling us as Trotskyites. We tell them openly that it is they who have fallen into the bog of Trotskyism."

(SW, Vol. I, pg. 15)

CUBA TAKES OVER JUNTA'S PROPAGANDA MACHINE

The fascist military junta is fast surrendering all pretences of Ethiopia's independence. First the internal 'security' department is taken over by the Russian social imperialists and their East German junior partners. Then the new Kremlin Czars, under the pretext of "preserving Ethiopia's territorial integrity" pump hundreds of millions of Birr worth of arms (under credit). This is followed by introducing 'experts' who would handle these weapons. Then fighting forces are said to be needed. So Brezhnev and Co. give the nod to their Cuban "Foreign Legion" to move in. Thousands of these mercenaries are now in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Cubans have now gone further. They have become partners in determining Ethiopia's foreign policies. That is not all. They have been given a leading role in the control of the junta's propaganda machine.

These facts which have for some time been a reality, have now been given a formal cloak. On March 18, Cuba's Foreign Minister (who is also de facto Co-Foreign Minister of Ethiopia as well- see below) Isidoro Malmierca and his 'junior partner' Col. Fellege Gedle Giorgis signed two agreements. One of these is to bring about "full cooperation in all areas between the two Foreign Ministries." Clauses in the "agreement" which have not been made public, include:

- a) Ethiopia is to consult and receive Cuba's acceptance on any public announcement which involve the Cuban expeditionary force in Ethiopia.
- b) Regular meetings between the diplomatic missions of the two countries abroad to co-ordinate their activities. Areas covered by this section mainly concentrates on the surveillance and possible physical elimination of opponents, particularly EPRP sympathisers. It is further covers the countering of adverse publicity in the media.
- c) The training of "new diplomatic personnel" to replace many of the present diplomats. It is clear what the training will also include, espionage, This will definitely lead Ethiopia into the world-wide KGB fraternity.

The second "agreement" covers "cultural co-operation, particularly in the field of mass media communication. Malmierca in a speech in the Ethiopian capital said that Cuba's expertise in the field of information media "can greatly assist to counter the adverse propaganda" that the Derg is receiving abroad. His statement was in reply to one made by the junta member responsible for Information and public relations,

2nd Lt. Tamrat Ferede. Tamrat in his speech stated that due to "Ethiopia's backwardness in the technical and scientific fields, we need your assistance to counter the attacks against us in the international media."

Hence, what was already a reality inside Ethiopia (and to some extent abroad) is now going to be carried out extensively outside the country. This is going to take the form of pressurising groups from Latin America and from Africa and the Caribbean to take a pro-junta position. Those groups who are sympathetic to and support the EPRP are going "to be briefed on the situation in Ethiopia" (mis-informed about the Ethiopian Revolution). Furthermore, articles are (in conjunction with the KGB) going to be planted in the revisionist, Trotskyist and bourgeois (especially 'liberal' ones) information media. Finally, Cuba herself will -ublish a number articles, books etc on the Ethiopian Revolution - a process which already began even before the recent formal "agreement."

STATEMENT OF THE EPRP

The Foreign Committee of the EPRP, takes this opportunity through ABYOT, to inform all Marxist-Leninist Parties and groups, Socialist countries, world governments (particularly in Africa, the Middle-East, Europe and the Americas) to be more vigilant against this world-wide sinister plan by Russian social-imperialism, Cuba and East Germany. The plan, under the cover of countering adverse propaganda against the junta, has as its objective to carry terrorist activities aimed against opponents abroad, particularly supporters of our Party. The two above "agreements" which will facilitate for the virtual control of the Ethiopian foreign and information ministries must be seen within this context. Although the carrying out of this hideous scheme has been on the main left to the Cubans, the Russians and the E. Germans are also involved at helping to co-ordinate it.

This is not the first time that the Derg wanted to assassinate its opponents abroad. Our Party disclosed in 1976 (later published in ABYOT Sept.- Oct. 1976) of an assassination squad sent abroad to eliminate opponents. This was faoiled in time. But not before they had hired thugs to kill in a car accident, Nenges Habte-Ab, secretary for student welfare of the anti-junta, World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students (WWFES). The accident which occurred on Oct. 2, 1976 in Frankfurt, still remains 'mystery' for the German police. However, EPRP sources inside Ethiopia now confirm earlier suspicions of the junta's complicity. In fact, the man who was responsible in hiring the assassins, has been handsomely rewarded by the Derg. It is no secret that the then action followed an intensive anti-WWFES and EPRP press campaign inside Ethiopia.

The EPRP says this to its sympathisers (particularly Ethiopians) abroad: Be vigilant, But never let yourself be intimidated by any dirty and cowardly threats from the Russian social-imperialists and their Cuban and E. German mercenaries.

To Marxists-Leninists and democrats: Expose and denounce this heinous plan

To Foreign Governments" Don't let the terrorist Derg, whose hands

is soaked with the blood of nearly one million of our peoples, extend their so-called "'red' terror" into your countries.

To the Russian Social Imperialists, Cuban and E. German mercenaries and THE DERG: The responsibility for any crimes you may commit will squarely be placed on your shoulders. Don't embark on something you will dearly regret later.

THE PROCESS OF ETHIOPIA'S NEO-COLONISATION

The Social imperialist drive to control Ethiopia in all spheres is being intensified. High ranking envoys of all sorts continue to flock to Addis Ababa from Moscow and its puppet countries. Economic agreements are signed, "courtesy visits" increased, goods are dumped on Ethiopia and more vital materials taken out of the country to Moscow and Eastern Europe. The Social imperialist drive to neo-colonize Ethiopia fully is a vivid reality.

- Economic agreement with the G'D'R- on March 21, Guenter Mittag; member of the politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, received Yusuf Ahmed, junta's Minister for Transport and Communications. Yusuf visited the Leipzig Fair and during this period signed treaties and agreements on East German deliveries in the sphere of Port technology, road building and communications.

Already an East German group has arrived in Ethiopia to study the expansion of the Port of Assab (in Eritrea, on the Red Sea) which is highly coveted by the Social imperialists.

-CZECH Women Delegation Visits Addis: Marie Hruskova, Secretary of the C.C. of the Czech National Front and member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovakia Union of Women, recently visited Ethiopia. During her visit Hruskova talked with junta official and especially the women charged with the setting-up of a junta controlled "women's union." Czechoslovakia is active in the field of helping to strengthen the junta's attempt to form junta controlled "mass" organisations. It is to be recalled that the junta banned the Ethiopian Women Coordinating Committee (formed by militant women) and repressed many working women. One of the leaders of the EWCC, the revolutionary worker, Daro Negash, was brutally slaughtered by the junta last year. She was eight-months pregnant when the junta's assassin squads torured and shot her.

The East Germans and the Russian Social imperialists, on their part, have focussed on the junta-controlled fake trade union (the so-called All Ethiopian Trade Union formed after the workers Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions- CELU- was banned and its leaders killed or hunted) to which they have given material and other "assistance."

MORE PEASANT LEADERS, OTHERS DEFY JUNTA

The sharpening class struggle in Ethiopia is putting the fascist junta and its social-imperialist masters, are finding themselves in ever deeper contradictions. No amount of repression against peasant leaders and the banning of all revolutionary mass organisations, will save them from the doom that awaits them in the end.

Recently, the junta has found that more and more peasant as well as urban dwellers associations, are refusing to co-operate in carrying out the terror campaigns against the masses. Throwing away all the hither to advertised pretences that mass organisations 'elect' their leaders 'democratically', the junta has embarked on announcing blanket dismissals of such leaders and their replacement by others. Here are some examples.

WELAYTA DISTRIC.- C. ETHIOPIA

The junta's radio announced (2.3.78) that the secretary-general of the Humbo Sub-district peasant Association has been dismissed for "forgetting to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him."

ARSSI REGION - C. ETHIOPIA

The entire nine-member executive committee of a peasant association in Arssi has been removed from office and arrested. The regional head of the so-called Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs (POMOA) - Political arm of the junta and social imperialism- who reported (1.3.78) the sackings stated that "all were found to be counter-revolutionaries" (anti-junta and against the foreign meddlers.)

GEDO DISTRICT- West C. ETHIOPIA

A radio broadcast (18.2.78) announced the dismissals of "all the committee members of the Bule sub-District Peasant Association as well as the members of the Peoples' Court." Un-like other broadcasts, in this case the junta did not even dare to mention any trumped-up charges. Reliable sources from Gedo, about 180 Kilometers west of Addis abeba report, that the dismissed peasant leaders were revolutionaries and democrats who refused to lick the boots of fascism and social imperialism.

WARA YIMENU - N.C. ETHIOPIA:

All elected members at various levels in the Urban Dwellers' Association of Tenta, Wara Yimenu District have been dismissed. The action by the regime was explained (2.3.78) as "since they did not fully implement" the directives as set out by the regional authorities, "we were forced to dismiss them."

The regime's thugs immediately also demanded that a "'red' terror campaign" be mounted in the town to clear it of "anti-revolutionaries." Since the vast majority are opposed to the terrorist junta, it will be a herculean task which even the intervention by the Russian social imperialists and their Cuban mercenaries will be able to overcome.

GONDER - N. ETHIOPIA:

Teachers from throughout all the districts in this northern region met in 1.3.78 in the capital, Gonder. To make sure that the teachers 'elected' officials acceptable to the regime, armed thugs were posted throughout the meeting hall as well as outside. In addition, the Derg member posted in Gonder took part in the deliberations of the meeting. In a speech to the teachers (reported on the radio 2.3.78) he said that "you must be responsible and careful enough to elect only those who are loyal to the National Democratic Revolution Programme." (the junta's programme). The open warning was not lost on the assembled teacher.

BRUTAL TORTURE CONTINUES IN ETHIOPIA
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCTOR REPORTS

Doctors who are members of the Amnesty International held a two day meeting in Athens on March 10 & 11. The meeting focussed on the use of torture against political prisoners all over the world. During this meeting the Swedish Doctor, Dr. Arnt Meyer-Lie, (who was for many years Director of Medical Services in Ethiopia) presented a detailed report in the kind of torture employed by the fascist military junta and the Russian/Cuban thugs on political prisoners. Dr. Meyer-Lie, who has travelled twice to Ethiopia and has prepared a lengthy report on the torture practiced there, confirmed many of the torture methods that the EPRP has been exposing for a long time now. The doctor's report, especially mentioned the following:

- continuous beating of sole of the feet ("falanga")
- electric shock
- beating with chains
- pouring hot oil on the body
- putting salt, acid, pepper into wounds
- crushing testicles,
- hanging a bottle, filled with sand, on the penis
- inserting red hot iron into the vagina or braking a bottle in the vagina and leaving the broken piece inside
- raping small girls (as young as 9 years)
- tying prisoners together and shooting them.
- forcing parents/relatives to pay around 300 Ethiopian Birr(US\$150.-) to collect dead bodies. etc.

The torture is extensive, brutal and continuously "referred" by the Russian and Cuban advisors who are champions of brutality. The vast majority of those arrested, tortured and liquidated are accused of being EPRP members or sympathisers. During the recent terror campaign (started some 4 months ago) thousands of people have been arrested and continue to be subjected to very many forms of savage torture. Quite a number of young children and older ones have been driven into insanity by the fascist and social imperialist bestial actions.

The Russian and Cuban fascists will definitely pay for all their crimes against the Ethiopian people.

DERG'S WHITE TERROR CONTINUES, BUT PEOPLE NOT COWED:

A diary by a long time resident of Addis Abeba was recently (22.3.78) published by the British paper, The Times. Here are some extracts:

"Blood fills the streets. Mothers are demented with worry. But worry is not the right word. It is the concentration of all the senses on one question: When will it be the turn of my child, when will its body be placed in front of my door.... The blood in the streets is thick like oil. It does not disappear. At times a note may appear next to a corpse saying: Sorry, this killing was due to a mistaken identity..... The tortures resorted to in the subdistricts are horrible. The methods and the entire system have been taken over from Eastern Europe and particularly East Germany. The secret security office is led by a general from the German Democratic Republic,"

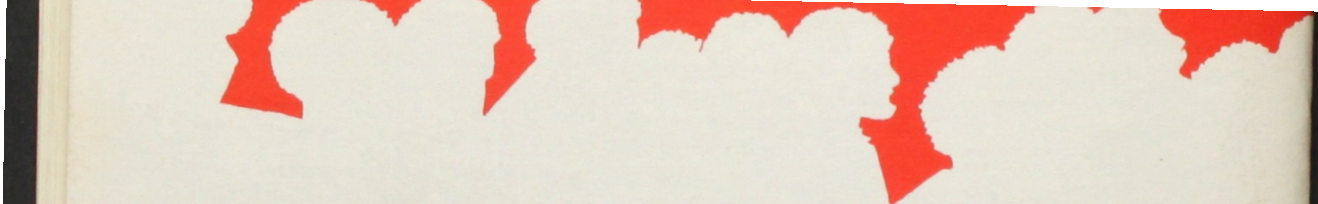
The mass murders committed is by social imperialism and the East German neo-Nazis is clear for any one, except to the die hard apologists of the Kremlin leadership and the fascist junta. No amount of notes offering apologies for 'mistaken' killings can rectify the wrong that has been done.

Has this wide spread and barbaric terror campaign cowed the people? No, it has n't. The masses under the EPRP is resisting the terrorist regime and its masters by continuously strengthening the Democratic Front which embraces all mass organisations, national movements and individuals- which are anti-feudalist, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist, particularly Russian social imperialism. So long as the violence of the regime against the masses continues, the Party through its armed wing, EPRA and the urban defence units, will continue to resist both in the countryside and the towns and cities as conditions demand. Let there be no mistake about this.

This resistance to the Derg's terror is going on throughout the country. Many times, even old people angered by the extent and the savagery of the repression courageously defy the junta. The above mentioned diary gives us one such example. Here is the extract:

"The imam at the great mosque was hit (by a terror squad member) and fell to the ground seemingly dead. But later he recovered. When the Military Government heard of this they invited him and expressed regret. He was told: 'Is it not terrible that anarchists should have stormed your mosque and killed so many innocent people? - The old imam replied: 'In our district there are no anarchists. You have done this, but why? There were only poor and simple people in the mosque standing there with the Koran in their hand. We prayed for rain and for bread, yet you have killed 50 of them. Why? He received no reply and was allowed to go home. But the next day he was taken away and has not been heard of since."

The courageous statement of the imam underscores one other point. It lays bare the hitherto trumpeted lies of the junta that the EPRP was responsible for attacking the mosque, and other numerous foiled terrorist attacks which were carried out by the regime itself.



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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