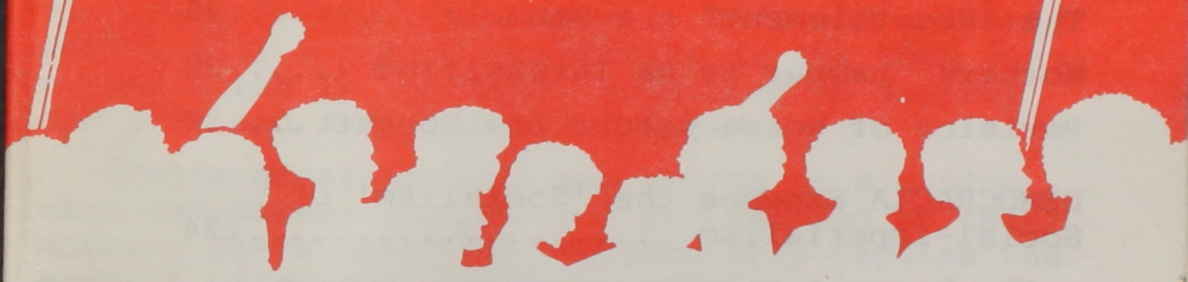


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*of the ethiopian peoples' revolutionary party*

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EDITORIAL

EPRA FOILS JUNTA'S OFFENSIVE IN GONDAR

The recent victory scored by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Army (EPRA) against the enemy's large-scale offensive in Gondar administrative region is of tremendous impact both politically and militarily. The first phase of the enemy's offensive has been thwarted. To the EPRA, the militia and the masses of the people that was not only a mere military victory over the forces of fascism but also an event through which they acquired valuable experiences in fighting social-imperialism.

EPRA's great victory over the enemy's encirclement and suppression offensive campaign has tremendous political impact. It has once more proved that the armed counter-revolutionary violence unleashed by fascism and social-imperialism can only be defeated with armed revolutionary violence. Indeed, the enemy is defeated not only politically but also militarily in the EPRA controlled areas in its first endeavour to destroy the EPRA and its controlled areas.

EPRA's great victory has proved in practice that the masses united to a man and led by their working class party can successfully repulse the enemy's offensive, however artfully planned. It has also shown that EPRA's operation is expanding gradually by protracted revolutionary war. This, however, does not mean that the fascist junta and its social-imperialist masters will be reconciled to their defeat.

EPRA's historic victory has become great inspiration to the struggling masses in the urban areas, where the fascist junta and the social-imperialists had carried out one of the bloodiest and most cruel terrorist killings. To the



revolutionaries engaged in clandestine political and organizational activities in the urban areas the victory of the EPRA in Gondar has raised their fighting morale. It has also elevated the confidence of the masses that fascism and social-imperialism will finally be defeated by popular revolutionary war. Moreover, the ever-increasing confidence of the masses in their party, EPRP, and their army, EPRA, has been raised.

The military impact of EPRA's victories is also of historic importance. The series of battles which the EPRA, the militia and the masses fought have given them tremendous experience in revolutionary warfare. They have acquired great experience, the experience that can only be acquired through a living and open class war. It has broken the fighting morale of the enemy soldiers in the region. It has improved the condition of EPRA in terms of arms. It has also forced the enemy to change its tactics; the enemy implicitly admitting that it has lost the first round in its annihilation campaign.

The revolutionary war our people are waging under the leadership of our party has generally a similar nature to those revolutionary wars in other countries of similar socio-historical category. That is in as far as fighting imperialism in general is concerned. Our revolutionary war, however, has also its own peculiar nature for we are fighting not just an imperialist power at that but soviet social-imperialism. As an imperialist power social-imperialism has the common features of imperialism. Social-imperialism has also its own characteristic features. Social-imperialism is a retrogressive product of a onetime socialist state. Hence, it has amassed valuable experiences of the peoples' national democratic revolutions and the world anti-imperialist movement. This peculiar position of social-imperialism undoubtedly renders it the advantage to identify the nature and problems, the weak and strong points of revolutionary wars for whose counter-

revolutionary purpose it employs. Revolutionary wars directed against social-imperialism, therefore, should take into consideration such peculiar features of this enemy. Hence our revolutionary war directed against the counter-revolutionary forces of fascism and social-imperialism naturally has also its own peculiar characteristics.

The deceptive nature of social imperialism does not, in any way, make it an invincible power. The nature of the counter-revolutionary war it is waging is different from the counter-revolutionary wars other imperialist powers has so far unleashed. That makes our revolutionary war evermore protracted, steadfast in strategy and flexible in tactics. The fact that doom and only doom awaits the fascists and their social-imperialist masters is beyond doubt.

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#### Mass Killings and Arrests Renewed

In a new wave of repression the desperate regime of Colonel Mengistu has launched a campaign of indiscriminate arrests and killings. It has been reported that the victims include workers, revolutionaries who were imprisoned, members of the Oromo nationality, protestants and democrats.

In Dire Dawa alone about 200 people of Oromo nationality have been summarily executed. Quite a number of workers from the Awash Valley Project have also been executed in front of their comrades with Mengistu himself present. Five EPID employees in Haikotch and Butajira were arrested on charges of "serious economic sabotage" because they didn't have peasants pay for the fertilizer the employees distributed.



## N E W S

Derg Admits Crisis Within "Emaledih"

The Crisis-ridden alliance of fascists and social-fascists which started in the summer of 1977, when the purge against Meisone begun, has never been overcome. On the contrary, it is getting worse from month to month.

Three and half years elapsed since the Derg ventured to form what it calls a "working class party". This unholy crusade of "forming a party from above" by the Derg had its blessings from all sorts of social-fascists in the country and the social-imperialists. To this effect, a "Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs" was also established with the notorious Haile Fida at its head in 1976 to work towards the formation of a party "soon."

By 1977, it was said that there were five 'Marxist-Leninist' organizations; namely Mengistu's Seded, Haile Fida's Meisone, Senay Like's Woz League, Tesfaye Mekonnen's Malered and Baro Tumsa's Echeat. By 1978, Meisone and Echeat had been purged for being "right roaders". The so-called joint declaration of the five groups was renounced. Then, the remaining three formed the so-called "Emaledih" as the forerunner of a "working class party."

In the summer of 1978 the alliance cracked again. Mengistu's Seded started a campaign of purge against the leaders and members of the two groups, Woz League and Malered. Mengistu used terror and intimidation. The miniscule groups could not survive from the blow by Seded, which emerged as the sole dominant group.

Nevertheless, the problem of what to say officially about the would-be 'forerunner of the party', Emaledih, still lingered on. It was an open secret that Woz League and Malered had been hit. Thus, the Derg had officially come out to

admit that all the talk about the formation of a party was a failure.

On March 12, 1979, Fisseha Desta, assistant secretary of the Derg said on the radio that "previous attempts at forming a party, the grouping together of underground Marxist-Leninist organizations, have been impractical, and therefore a centre had been established to recruit genuine communists as a first step towards establishing the workers' party." It is only Seded that still remains as a group. Therefore, Mengistu, who quarrelled with other groups on points of principles as to how the would-be 'party' work internally (i.e. the constitution) and externally, found it easy to call individuals, not groups, to join the 'centre'. This 'centre' as opposed to Emaledih is not a coalition of groups but is composed of Seded and other individuals. The March 28 issue of the "Ethiopian Herald" openly admitted that "the formation of the party by fusing the existing groups is practically impossible..." It also said that "... given the prevailing objective conditions, the working class party could only be realized by merging genuine communist individuals rather than communist groups as envisaged earlier." Then, there is no wonder if the Derg declares a 'working class party' soon for what is "practically possible" is the "merging of communist individuals".

"Resettlement":- Derg's 'Solution' to the Famine

Five years after the February revolution, four and half years after the end of feudal autocracy and monarchy and, most important, four years after the "Land Reform Bill"; famine still remains to be the scourge of the peasant masses in Northern and Eastern Ethiopia.

The Great Ethiopian Famine that took the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Northern and Eastern Ethiopia in 1973 is well known. It is also well-known that the attitude of the old auto-



cratic regime towards the famine which had angered the Ethiopian people so much so that the famine situation as a whole, was one of the immediate factors that triggered the Ethiopian revolution in February 1974. The present military junta, prior to its accession to power had fully utilized the famine situation on the propaganda level to facilitate its usurpation of power.

Feudal autocracy and monarchy are gone, the "Land Reform Bill" has been proclaimed, Ethiopia was declared to be 'socialist', the social-imperialists of Moscow have replaced the US imperialists. But the lot of the Ethiopian masses remains. Famine has come again. Of course, the fascist regime in Addis Abeba had to look 'sympathetic' to the masses. It deliberately ignored warnings by international organizations of an impending famine in order to wage its war policies inside the country. The fascist regime is now making loud noise about the 'solution' of the famine problem after many lives have been lost.

According to the regime, the 'solution' is evicting 250,000 persons from their homes and forcing them to settle in Southern Ethiopia where drought does not usually occur. When it came to power, the Derg joined the people to accuse the old regime that the Great Famine was man-made, artificial, which could have been averted. Now, the Derg in power is saying the cause is drought and that people have got to be resettled somewhere else where there is no occasional drought. Thus, this venture for "resettlement" programme.

Five years is not a long period of time that the masses of Ethiopia would forget that it was man-made famine which took the lives of hundreds of thousands of their folks. But, the fascist regime wants them to forget that and to accept a 'solution' through resettlement thousands of kilometers away from their homes. The masses are asked to leave their hometowns, where their ancestors

had lived for hundreds of years. The masses did not accept the regime's "resettlement programme". This has been and is being expressed in many ways.

Unable to fulfill its policy of "resettlement", the fascist regime has started a propaganda campaign attacking the people of Wollo administrative region. In an Editorial of the main government news daily, Addis Zemen, of Jan. 21, 1979, the fascist regime complains that a "large scale propaganda campaign is being conducted against the resettlement programme." It also admits the disapproval of the people of Wollo of this programme. It says that "the people of Wollo are confused for reasons of low consciousness". The paper goes on to cite that "peasant association leaders are also accomplices of this campaign." It even cites that "administrators of some districts and sub-districts are also accomplices of this anti-settlement propaganda campaign."

In conclusion, the paper said that experienced cadres have to be sent to Wollo to "explain to the people." This is euphemism for an obvious campaign of intimidation and repression against the masses.

#### Derg and Social-imperialists Promote a "Somali Liberation Movement"

In its effort to dominate and control the Horn of Africa, social-imperialism armed the fascist regime in Addis Abeba to the teeth. It sent more than 17,000 Cuban mercenaries and thousands of its own military officers and KGB security experts to strengthen the military position of Mengistu's regime. Having convinced the fascists that Moscow is "a friend in need", social-imperialism has tied the fascists hand and foot with the Defence Pact signed last November in Moscow. Clearly, Moscow wants the Addis Abeba regime to be the Cuba or Vietnam of the Horn of Africa.



After a change in the balance of internal forces in the country due to the massive military assistance rendered by the social-imperialists to the fascists in Addis Abeba, the fascists and their social-imperialist masters are out to instigate trouble within neighbouring countries. In an attempt to destabilize some of the governments in the region and bring them under their control the social-imperialists and fascists are promoting a "Somali liberation movement". The fascists and social-imperialists have been arming and training a group of Somalis under an "organization" called "Somali Democratic Action Front," SODAF.

Since February this year, the SODAF has been broadcasting from inside Ethiopia through the external service of the Derg's radio (the so-called "Voice of Revolutionary Ethiopia") on 9615 frequency from 22 to 22:45 hours local time. The broadcast has been referred by the Amharic service of the Derg's radio as "a mobile radio broadcast of a Somali liberation front inside Somalia" and sometimes as "an anti-Siad Barre mobile radio broadcast whose station is unknown but heard in Nairobi".

Since the end of February, the Somali programme, referred as "Radio Kulmis" has been broadcast at the same frequency from 21-22 hours local time. The fact that the fascists and social-imperialists are behind this so-called "Somali liberation movement" became obvious at the end of February. In the Derg's radio external service, there was an interview with the 'secretary general' of the movement at the end of February. In his interview the alleged 'general secretary' of the movement claimed that a national congress had been held "inside Somalia" and that they have formed their organization called the "Somali Salvation Front" (SSF).

### Quadafy Hinted Libyan-Derg Pact

Social-imperialism as part of its ambition to dominate the world is trying to put under its direct control as many parts of the world as possible. For this strategic objective it has regional chieftains, Cuba in the Caribbean and Vietnam in South East Asia. One of the puppets of social-imperialism is the regime in Tripoli, which serves as an agent in the super-power rivalry in the region.

The regime in Tripoli has had a long time dispute with the Sudan. Following the failure of the talks between the Sudanese President and Mengistu in Freetown, Sierra Leone, social-imperialism seems to unleash a campaign of intimidation through its mad dogs in Tripoli and Addis Abeba. Thus, Quadafy of Libya officially declared that it would go on for a military pact with Mengistu. He reasoned that "he had warned the Sudan to stop its alliance with Egypt. The Sudan didn't." It will not be surprising if Quadafy, who ventured to save his friend in Uganda would sign a military pact with the Idi Amin of Addis Abeba.

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### N O T E

ABYOT is available in quite a number of progressive bookshops in Western Europe and the United States. We hope to give a list of addresses of bookshops where ABYOT is available.

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## EPRA MILITARY COMMUNIQUE S

### The First Phase of the Enemy's Offensive Campaign Against EPRA Defeated

The vast anti-EPRA military offensive launched by the fascist junta against the EPRA has been defeated. Even though battles are still continuing the enemy's massive thrust for "quick and decisive victory" has been thwarted. The fascists' first phase of massive offensive has been defeated.

After luring the enemy troops deep into the interior, EPRA units and peasant militia forces carried out a series of ambushes which caused significant losses to the enemy. The enemy's campaign of terror, burning houses and crops, bombarding villages, backfired against the junta itself. Echoing the EPRA's call to fight the hordes with all determination, the peasants in the base areas united their might with the EPRA and successfully frustrated all the moves of the junta.

When EPRA units and the peasant armed forces ambushed the enemy convoy carrying supplies to Agdamia and dealt it crushing blows, the beleaguered junta ordered the hasty abandonment of its garrisons in Agdamia, Sekota and Adi Selam. This glaring defeat of the first phase of the junta's offensive is a blow to the social-imperialists who planned and supervised the anti-EPRA campaign. The victory of the EPRA and the masses over the savage enemy has heightened the determination of the masses to carry on the bitter and protracted war through to the end. Relying on the invincible strength of the masses, the EPRA is sure to endure all hardship and difficulties and to defeat the military offensives of the fascist junta and social-imperialism.

The fascist junta and social-imperialism have also received another blow. The special assassin commando unit they sent to the village of Sembera

(Gondar administrative region) with the mission of liquidating militant peasants and EPRP cadres has been totally routed and eight of these assassins have been captured. The captives later confessed in public that they were sent to Sembera to execute EPRP cadres and peasant militants and to kidnap others.

The EPRA has also dismantled an enemy spy-ring that was operating in Libo province and in the adjacent provinces of Wollo administrative region.

### Addis Zemen Town Occupied by the EPRA

Frustrating the Russian-planned massive military offensive against the EPRA base areas in Gondar administrative region, the EPRA has driven out the fascist troops out of a number of areas such as Agdamia, Sekata and Adi Selam. Stepping up the guerrilla war against the fascist junta, EPRA forces have now scored a new and resounding political and military victory by routing the enemy camp in Addis Zemen and occupying this important provincial town which lies on the main Addis Abeba-Godar highway.

The EPRA forces attacked the enemy's military camp in Addis Zemen. In a fierce battle that lasted from 3 a.m. till 5 a.m., the enemy was totally routed and the town fell under the control of the EPRA. An armed propaganda unit composed of EPRP peasant cadres of the region also participated in this operation against the fascist enemy.

Details of the Addis Zemen operation are as follows:

Enemy casualties: 21 killed, the provincial administrator, Captain Getachew, who was critically wounded, fled with others.

War materials captured from the enemy:

- 70 automatic and semi-automatic rifles,
- 3 bren guns,
- thousands of ammunitions of various types,



- several .38 Calibre pistols,
- money ( in cash) and medicine roughly estimated to have a value of well over 20,000 Eth. Bir,
- typewriter, clothes, blankets, megaphones and several items.

Political prisoners liberated

EPRA forces have liberated a total of 148 political prisoners most of whom were EPRP members, peasant cadres and sympathisers who were incarcerated in the provincial police station and in the large central prison.

Destroyed enemy property:

The provincial police station and jail, the central provincial prison, the government stores and administrative office, the office of the so-called 'Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs' (POMOA) set up by the junta, have all been burnt.

The microwave station has also been totally destroyed. After controlling the town of Addis Zemen for several hours and successfully completing the overall operation, the EPRA forces have safely returned to their base areas.

#### 80 Enemy Soldiers Wiped out at Janamora

Over 1,000 soldiers dispatched by the fascist junta to occupy Janamora, Semien province Gondar administrative region, were ambushed near Inchet Kab village by the EPRA and the armed peasant forces of the area. After a fierce battle, enemy troops left 80 of their dead and failed in their attempt to penetrate deep into Janamora.

The troops of the barbaric junta, following the teachings of their Cuban and Russian social-imperialist mentors, had earlier burnt more than 60 huts of peasants in the area, disarmed and flogged poor peasants and had brutally murdered an EPRP peasant cadre.

At present the junta troops who have garriso-

ned themselves in the district of Mekane Birhan are being constantly pounded and harassed by the EPRA and armed peasant militia forces of the region.

An EPRA unit operating in Gayint district hunted down and liquidated a special assassin squad formed by the junta. The squad headed by the notorious fascist, Adisalem Kokeb, had its mission the torturing, kidnapping and liquidation of EPRP members or sympathisers. Adisalem Kokeb and two other leaders of the assassin squad have been punished by death.

In a related development, an EPRA armed squad has executed Tesfu Kebede in Jegeh village near Gondar city. Tesfu Kebede was a notorious murderer and responsible member of colonel Mengistu's fascist organization, Seded, and was feverishly trying to pressgang peasants of Ambagiorgis region into an 'invasion' force on EPRA controlled areas.

#### Enemy Outpost at Seraba Destroyed by EPRA

Following the EPRA military victory over enemy troops in Addis Zemen town, the EPRA forces operating in Chilga province have scored another resounding political and military victory by attacking and destroying the military outpost at Seraba. Seraba lies at the entrance of Aikel, capital of Chilga province.

The surprise attack on the Seraba military outpost started at 3 a.m. and after a fierce fighting the outpost fell into the hands of EPRA fighters. Enemy troops who were rushed from Aikel to reinforce the Seraba troops were pinned down on their way to the camp by EPRA units stationed for the purpose. Hence, the Seraba outpost was unable to receive any reinforcement or help.

Details of the Seraba operation was as follows:

Enemy casualties:

25 killed

34 wounded



EPRA units and the peasants of the area are continuing the search for several other enemy soldiers who fled to the surrounding countryside.

**Captured war materails:**

55 Kalashnikov automatic rifles  
 30 automatic and semi-automatic rifles of various types  
 6 Degtaryev machine guns  
 Grinov D machine guns, several pistols and many granades  
 tens of thousands of ammunition, mostly for Kalashnikov machine guns  
 one PRC communications radio  
 photo developer, sewing machine, camping equipment and other items.

**Destroyed enemy property:**

The military camp, the police station, the arms and ammunition depot, 7 mercedes military trucks, one Toyota land cruiser and the government store have all been burnt.

In this operation, which has a big political significance in the whole province and Gondar administrative region at large, 5 EPRA comrades have been martyred. Of the women fighters who played a heroic and exemplary role in the whole operation and especially during the final assault, one has been seriously wounded.

Social-imperialists and their mercenraies planned and supervised anti-EPRA offensive

Earlier, we reported that the social-imperialists and their Cuban mercenaries are actively involved in the anti-EPRA military offensive of the junta. Some ten Russian officers are attached to the top staff of the 7th Division stationed in Gondar administrative region. They advise, supervise and plan the anti-EPRA large scale offensives as well as the raids by specialized commando murder squads. Some 45 or more Cubans train rec-

ruits at the army camp at Azezo, a few kilometers outside the town of Gondar. The junta's large scale offensive against the EPRA base areas has shown the imprint of Russian and Cuban counter-insurgency planning.

The identification cards we reproduce below are concrete proofs of the social-imperialists' participation in the war against the EPRA. It is a clear proof that the social-imperialists are the foremost enemies of our masses, they are the ones who not only arm the junta but also plan and participate in the execution of these plans.

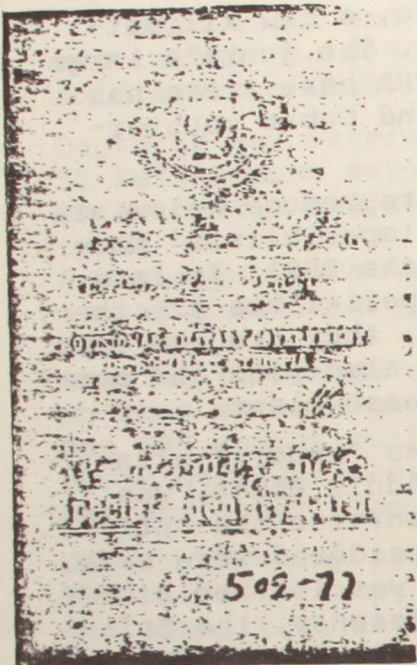
The Russian officer, listed as "expert" attached to the Soviet embassy in Addis Abeba, was based in Gondar and used to supervise the anti-EPRA offensive from what he considered were safe heights; from a helicopter. It was learned also that he flew several times to Teseney, the Eritrean town recently captured by the junta. The South Yemeni lieutenant, Abyu Musa Abdullah, was a helicopter mechanic while the civilian South Yemeni, Mohammed Ali Salem, served as the Russian's translator.

**Descriptions of the identification cards:**

1. Name: Mr. Glazunov Valery  
 Position: Expert  
 Nationality: Soviet  
 Address: Embassy of the Soviet Union in Addis Abeba
2. Name: Abyu Musa Abdullah  
 Rank: Lieutenant  
 Nationality: Yemeni
3. Name: Mohammed Ali Salem  
 Nationality: Yemeni



The back cover reads: "Holder is exempt from Proclamation No. 271 of 1969, the Proclamation to regulate the issuance of Travel Documents and Visas, and Registration of Foreigners in Ethiopia."



Name: Mr. GLAZUNOV Valery

Position: Expert

Natioanlity: Soviet

Address: S Embassy of the Soviet Union in Addis Abeba

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N° SP 502-77

Name ግብረ-ጌዛተኛ ገብረ ገብረ

Position ኢ.ገበሬ ፎ.ፊ.ፊ.

Nationality ገብግብ

Address በስፔሪየር ስብረት አዲስ አበባ

ከከተማ ገብግብ

19

Chief Protocol

Signature of Bearer

(3)

A. S. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Rank ማለፊ

Name አብይ ሙሉ አብይህ

Age 26

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality የወ.የ.የ

Colour of Hair \_\_\_\_\_

Colour of eye \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Blood group \_\_\_\_\_


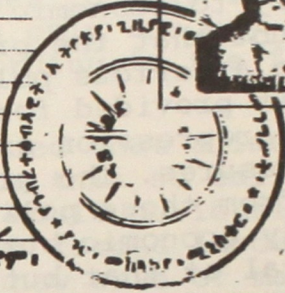
Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Issuing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Abyu Musa Abdullah  
Rank: Lieutenant

(4)

A. S. No. 1050

Rank ማለፊ

Name ሙሉ አብይህ

Age 24

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality የወ.የ.የ

Colour of Hair \_\_\_\_\_

Colour of eye \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Blood group \_\_\_\_\_



Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_

Date of expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Issuing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Mohammed Ali Salem



DERG's ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS WORSENS

The inherent characteristic of the Derg is that it has always been gripped with crisis, be it political or economic, ever since it usurped power in 1974. The Derg has been and is an entity in transition from one crisis to another; first from political to economic, from economic to political, from political to military, and now from military to economic without solving any of them. No doubt that the present economic crisis will lead to a serious political crisis. The 'solution' it provided for the economic crisis is political repression or at least politically motivated measures. The grievance of the masses, who suffer from these political measures, will not be purely economic but also political - not only political at that but revolutionary. The forced labour under the guise of the "green revolution", the programme of "resettlement" as a solution to the famine situation, the latest campaign against the working class personally initiated by Mengistu and the constitutional measures (like the revision of the labour law) that are going to follow will lead to a deep political crisis.

1. Forced Labour Intensified

For a long time now, the Derg has been paying the Soviet Union and its satellite states in cash crops for the massive armament it obtained. This has greatly affected its financial situation. Thus, to 'solve' this dilemma the fascist Derg has embarked on one grandiose project. It has been more than six months since the Derg declared the launching of the so-called "green revolution". The aim of the "green revolution" is to increase production so as to intensify trade with western countries (to obtain hard currency) and meet the debt to the Soviet social-imperialists and their

East European satellites.

To meet this necessity, the regime focused on cash crops. The increase of production at the required level, given the politico-economic situation unchanged, means that the employment of huge labour force is necessary. Even that would entail another problem which the Derg with its meagre financial resources cannot afford. That is, the problem of wages to this required huge labour force. There is only one way out to 'solve' this problem, according to the fascists, and that is forced labour!

Mengistu has announced that a labour force of 250,000 is required for this so called "green revolution". As there would obviously be no one who would volunteer for forced labour, Mengistu's regime has launched a new wave of mass arrests of the unemployed and peasants. The forced labourers would be toiling on the Humera, Awash Valley and the other state farms. So far, 4000 of them have been "trained" in the Tatek army camp and then taken to Humera as a "producing and fighting force".

The situation in the state farms is intolerable. The labourers are not only unpaid, but are also subjected to intensified labour. Arbitrariness from the part of the fascist authorities is their inherent nature that the labourers are called to labour at anytime and for whatever length of time they are wanted to. There is also another serious problem, which makes the condition of these labourers worse than a slave. A slave is at least guaranteed by his master that he would be fed. The labourers at the state farms literary suffer from hunger. Added to this is, of course, the usual police terror a la the Nazi concentration camps.

Thus, the labourers have only one option; to escape from the state farms and flee the country.



At present, there are lots of refugees running away from this "green revolution" to the neighbouring countries like the Sudan and Djibouti.

## 2. The "Resettlement" - a Debacle

The aim of the so-called programme of "resttlement" is not only economic advanced as a "solution" for the famine situation. Recent reports disclose that the main purpose of the programme is not only economic but also politico-military. The fascist regime advised by its social-imperialist masters aimed to settle thousands of people considered as "loyal" to the regime in politically and militarily sensitive areas in Southern Ethiopia like Bale. These are areas of discontent, where movements by the oppressed Oromo nation are waged against national oppression. By settling about 250,000 people in these sensitive areas, the Derg and its social-imperialist masters intend to intensify the national antagonism and create a buffer force among those who are said to be resettled. The aim of the fascists is a historical reminder. The "resettlement" programme is the neftegna system pure and simple. (The neftegna system is a system through which the soldiers and officers of Menelik II were given the lands of the Oromo and other oppressed people and remained to settle there as regional chiefs and representatives of the central government in Addis Abeba ever since.)

Colonel Mengistu's "resettlement" programme was not well planned. Nevertheless, the junta put a lot of money into it. The failure of the programme has also resulted in the loss of a big sum of money. Mengistu admitted the failure in a seminar held for high officials.

## 3. Workers' Labour to be Intensified

The struggle of the Ethiopian working class has been unabated. Under the terrorist regime the workers are still continuing their struggle in various forms. Open or semi-legal political

and organizational activities being impossible, the workers are still continuing their struggle in various forms like slow-downs and so on.

In his drive for his "green revolution", Mengistu had the working class in mind as the main force for his objective be it by the voluntary display of the workers or by the application of force. Yet, the 'naivety' of the fascists has no limitation that Mengistu expects the workers, whose comrades in arms, sons, daughters, he has brutally slaughtered to perform miracles "forgetting" the unforgettable. Thus, when he found out that both the "green revolution" and the entire economy are in shambles, he started to blame the workers.

After his return from his visits to a few administrative regions, Mengistu has openly called for a campaign against the working class. He has openly said that "the proletariat is lazy!" "they want to eat without doing any work!" So, the whole blame for the failure of the "green revolution" is put on the shoulders of the working class, for its lack of productivity. The solution for this lack of productivity lies on the investigation of the condition of the working class as a whole. For the fascists and social-imperialists, the 'solution' lies on designing plans to "increase productivity". No doubt that these plans to "increase productivity" are within the bounds of the forcible imposition of the profit-oriented will of the bourgeoisie on the working class.

Among the exploitative plans suggested at the seminar of the high government officials the first is the increase of working hours from 42 working-hours a week to 54 working-hours a week. That would be 9 hours a day 6 days a week. Already the EPID ( an extension project department of the ministry of agriculture) and other three enterprises are ordered to work according to the



above mentioned suggestion, 54 working-hours a week! The outright lies and deception of the fascists have no bounds at all. They have said that the idea of a 54 working-hours a week "came from the workers themselves". Obviously, workers who have just been blamed for 'laziness' cannot be miraculously energetic to be willing not only to perform well on a 8-hour-day basis but also to add another 12 hours a week! That is a fantastic lie indeed.

The second suggestion is to pay workers on piece rate-basis, i.e. according to the pieces they have produced instead of the monthly wage. The piece-rate exploitative system is a well known reactionary system which was experimented in Hungary. Given the low level of technology and an archaic production relation, certainly production is too low to introduce a payment by piece-rate or commission level. Feudo-bourgeois Ethiopia is too backward to enable keep a worker at subsistence level with this system of payment. Even in bourgeois Hungary that experiment was conducted under a high rate of exploitation.

In both proposed cases, exploitation of labour is the central criteria "to increase productivity." In the first case, we have the production of absolute surplus value as a result of the prolongation of working hours. In the second case, we have the intensification of labour, which lengthens the labour-time which is surplus to the necessary labour time. That is to say even if the piece-rate payment proves viable enough to keep the worker at the level of subsistence.

#### 4. Revision of Worse Labour Law Sought

The labour law, aptly called by EPRP as the decree of slavery, enacted at the end of 1975 is said to be too conciliatory. It may be recalled that the enactment of the severe labour law, that abolishes the right of trade unions

totally, was followed by the historic declaration, the CELU manifesto (CELU is the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions) and the state of emergency. During the seminar which Mengistu held with the high officials of the government, it was suggested that the 1975 labour law was too lenient and conciliatory. It was also said that they made too many unnecessary concessions because of the situation existed then. Thus, they said, it is necessary to revise it.

It was even mentioned that some of the provisions of the labour law were those advanced by EPRP. The provision on the relation between the employer and the employee has been specifically mentioned as the article borrowed from EPRP's official organ DEMOCRACIA. In short, according to the fascists the severe labour law that doesn't leave any room for any freedom of action is "too pro-worker"!

Mengistu, on his part, has openly admitted on the seminar that the economy is in shambles and that the state farms are bankrupt. The whole blame is put on the workers and the farm managers whom he referred to as reactionary saboteurs. In his speech, he has openly threatened that the workers would be punished. He cited many "proofs" how the workers sabotaged the economy. He has even sarcastically and angrily criticised the payment of workers during their sick leave.

In another development, Mengistu mentioned generally about the situation in the countryside. In his address to a meeting of his own cadres at the Addis Abeba University he openly admitted that the peasant associations are not being led by 'revolutionaries'. He also warned that unless this task of leading the peasant associations is not combatted soon, the peasants would be lost to 'counter-revolutionaries'. It is clear that the Derg's experiment of "co-oper-



ativization" has also failed mainly due to the resistance of the peasantry.

Despite the terror rule of the fascists, their arbitrary killings, arrests and tortures the Ethiopian working class is determinedly resisting. Mengistu's promise for managers of enterprises that "the workers would be punished" shows that the resistance is unabated. For a working class that is stripped off its democratic and human rights, denied of even its human dignity, unable to live even in silence, suffering from want and economic crisis; such a working class in struggle will have everything to gain and nothing to lose but its chain.

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#### DEMOCRACIA Exposes the 'Socialism' of Social-Imperialism

In its Volume 5, No.4 issue, DEMOCRACIA, organ of the EPRP exposes the 'socialism' of social-imperialism.

For the broad masses, says DEMOCRACIA, there is no socialism without democracy and there is no democracy without socialism. Democracy is necessary and useful for the construction of a socialist society. However, social-imperialists and revisionists, presenting themselves as examples are trying to show that 'socialist construction' is possible with the absence of any sort of democratic and human rights. That is not all. They have gone to the extent of trying to show how "socialism" can be built under fascism. Exposing their true colours, however, they have shown that democratic and human rights erode socialism, and that socialism and democracy are mutually exclusive.

EPRP's position, continues Democracia, on the

relation between socialism and democracy is diametrically opposed to the position of the social-imperialists and revisionists. At a time when all sorts of anti-socialists are professing about socialism, we have found it necessary to explain in short the principal characteristics which scientific socialism differs from all the 'socialisms' of the anti-socialists.

Socialism, says Democracia, is a system which arms the proletariat and broad masses with broad democracy. Socialism is a system which is based on the power and supremacy of the proletariat. Socialism is a system in which the proletariat and broad masses organize themselves in many forms to be able to administer themselves. Socialism is a system in which the proletariat and broad masses acquire more democracy, welfare and development than the capitalist system in the political, economic and cultural fields. In the Soviet Union, however, the party which still works in the name of the proletariat is trampling the proletariat and broad masses underfoot and deprives them their democratic rights. It has kept the proletariat aside from political power. It has concentrated all the power in its hands and has become an anti-socialist party of few bureaucrats which defends their bourgeois interests.

Thus, continues Democracia, the first socialist country has been turned to be a social-imperialist country. As a bad example and through its practices, policies and influence it has and is still challenging, opposing and fighting against the purity, expansion, development and triumph of socialism. Putting the parties in Eastern Europe, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam, who are in power, under control; the Soviet Union has also had these parties establish an anti-democratic and anti-people rule.

The dictatorial rulers of the Soviet Union, says Democracia, have and are still attempting



to present the rules of their anti-people and anti-socialist puppets in a number of countries as 'socialist'. In contradistinction to the struggle of the masses for democracy and socialism, the Soviet rulers have presented the anti-people rule of their puppets as 'socialist' in an attempt to prolong the life of the reactionary system and destroy the peoples' resistance. Hasn't the demagogue Mengistu's fascist regime calling itself 'socialist' also called the proletariat, broad masses and the proletarian party counter-revolutionaries?

For the social-imperialists and fascists, continues Democracia, socialism means a system of which a regime of handful few dictators has the control of the masses and when the people do not have any control of the government. For them, socialism is being against democracy, anti-proletarian, anti-people and which combines the reactionary superstructure and practices which enables them to maintain their fascist and exploitative rule. The difference between the socialism we are fighting for and the 'socialism' of the social-imperialists and fascists is as wide as heaven and earth. To us socialism is a system in which the proletariat and broad masses hold state power; in which they take part in all responsible positions, in which the right of the people to call or change the officials of the government elected locally or at a country-wide level is guaranteed, in which there is a proletarian-led regime that stood for the broad masses of the people.

For the social-imperialists and fascists, 'socialism' means depriving the proletariat and broad masses of the people their democratic and human rights; depriving them the right to free speech, press and assembly; and depriving them the freedom of movement in their own country. 'Socialism' for the social-imperialists and fascists is a

system in which the masses are subjected to constant repression, harassment, torture and execution until they bow to silence. For us, socialism is the exact opposite of this. Socialism without democracy is unthinkable. Socialist democracy is different from and superior to bourgeois democracy both in breadth and form. Socialism is not only a system in which the proletariat and broad masses have the right to free speech, press and assembly and organization; but also the right to sound out their opinions or protests against their regime or any organization without restrictions. Under socialism the masses also have the right to take a different position and make it public, the right to protest. Socialism cannot be a system in which a democracy narrower than bourgeois democracy reigns.

A system in which the proletariat and broad masses do not directly take part in the exercise of power, says Democracia, cannot be socialist. There is no socialism if the proletariat and broad masses do not take part in decisions of government affairs and if they do not administer themselves in a democratic system. Socialism is not democracy for the ruling class and government officials and dictatorship over the masses as it is like in the Soviet Union and its allies. Socialism cannot be a system in which those who oppose are imprisoned, kept in concentration camps, tortured, executed and where the freedom of speech of the masses is abolished.

Under socialism political power is in the hands of the proletariat and broad masses. Thus the existence of the special and highest form of organization of the proletariat, its weapon of struggle and leader, the proletarian party, is indispensable. Without its party the proletariat cannot seize political power. For us, however, a proletarian party is not something that



the masses would worship and follow blindly because it claims to be one. It should be one which the masses support and have confidence on due to the correctness of its political positions, the struggle it conducts, its method of work and the day-to-day activity it performs. A proletarian party cannot replace the proletariat to make the revolution. It cannot be commanding and know-all against the proletariat and peasantry once it seizes political power. It is the proletariat and broad masses who are the creators and the driving force of the locomotives of history. This is true under socialism too. The guarantee of the existence of a genuine proletarian party, its source of power and legal base are the masses. The right of the proletariat and broad masses to control their party, to criticize the party, to express their views before any important decision is taken, to oppose or support or to take part in decisions is guaranteed. Socialism does not mean where a party isolated from the masses imposes its dictatorship over the masses as it is in the Soviet Union.

For the social-imperialists, socialism means when few self-proclaimed "geniuses" control state power isolating the party members, suppressing inner-party democracy and speak on behalf of the members of the party. It means where few (or one) individuals become autocrats worshipped and feared like gods. For us socialism means where party members discuss and decide on important decisions, where the leadership is everytime elected, where the party works on the basis of collective responsibility and leadership, where a genuine party which do not have mini-gods seize state power.

For the social-imperialists and fascists socialism is where a policy of chauvinism reigns

supreme in the name of "unity and indivisibility," the right of oppressed nations is trampled under the rule of the gun and where national oppression is maintained in many forms.

For us, socialism is a system in which the equality of and right of nations to self-determination is guaranteed; in which the languages, culture existence are respected, in which oppressed nations use their own language as the medium of instruction; where there are no national privileges; where unity and assimilation is created on the basis of voluntariness and equality; where proletarian internationalism flourishes; and which is free of chauvinism and narrow national mindedness.

For the social-imperialists, socialism means depriving the political and organizational rights of other political organizations and put them under their tutelage. It means to claim the right of invading other countries, exploiting peoples, controlling other governments and abolish their state sovereignty.

Socialism is democracy, equality and respect of people and countries, brotherhood and proletarian internationalism, justice and peace. What social-imperialism practices is the invasion of czechoslovakia, dispatching mercenaries to put down national liberation movements of other countries. As an imperialist power, it also competes and contend or collude and agree with other imperialist powers for the plunder and division of the world.

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I N T E R N A T I O A N L     S O L I D A R I T Y

Statement of Condemnation of Vietnamese Aggression Against Kampuchea

On January 7, 1979, the Vietnamese forces of aggression occupied Phnom Penh. The EPRP, once again resolutely condemns this naked aggression by Vietnam. The Vietnamese aggression of Democratic Kampuchea once again confirms the fact that Soviet social-imperialism is out to fulfill its hegemonist ambitions not only through coup d'etats but also through naked military aggression.

In a flagrant violation of the rights and dignity of the Kampuchean people, Vietnam and Soviet social-imperialism have invaded Kampuchea. They have installed a puppet "regime" of Soviet social-imperialism and are out to "crush" the resistance of the people of Kampuchea. Vietnam and Moscow have swallowed back their words, which they consistently expressed during the war in Vietnam, i.e. the withdrawal of foreign troops from the countries of Indo-China. Yesterday's "champions" of the principle of the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of the sovereign people of Indo-China have become the very people to veto the resolution of the U.N. Security Council to the same effect. This only exposes Moscow as an aggressive super-power and the Vietnamese leaders as its running dogs.

In the past year; events in Ethiopia, Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Indo-China and elsewhere have exposed Moscow as an aggressive and dangerous imperialist super-power. By arming the most blood-thirsty regime in Ethiopia it has enabled the fascist Mengistu to unleash its so-called "red terror" in which thousands and thousands of people of all walks of life and of all ages ranging from unborn babies to 80 or more years have been brutally and cold-bloodedly murdered. It has strengthened the military position of the

regime as opposed to the revolution and national movements. By ousting the regime in Kabul in a coup d'etat, it has installed a puppet regime in Afghanistan. To strengthen its position in the Horn of Africa, Asia Minor and South East Asia it brought its puppet regimes in Addis Abeba, Hanoi and Kabul to sign the so-called "Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation" that would last, according to Moscow's wishes, for 20 years in each case. According to these treaties, the armed forces in these countries are required to fulfill their "internationalist" duties of "safeguarding the world peace". Thus, Moscow would have one Cuba too many; Hanoi in S.E. Asia, Addis Abeba in the Horn of Africa and Kabul in Asia Minor.

Vietnam's aggression of Democratic Kampuchea is a "logical conclusion" of the global policy of Moscow to control the most important and strategic areas of the world. The treaty signed recently between Moscow and Hanoi is a significant reminder. Democratic Kampuchea, as a revolutionary regime in S.E. Asia is certainly a threat to this global strategy of Moscow and the expansionist ambitions of the Vietnamese leaders.

The aggression by Vietnam and Soviet social-imperialism has not, however, been left unchallenged. The heroic people of Kampuchea, who drove away the US imperialists and their Lon Nol puppet regime, are conducting a popular armed struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors. Led by their experienced and courageous vanguard, the Communist Party of Kampuchea, the people of Kampuchea are fighting the Vietnamese aggressors. Just like US imperialism, social-imperialism and the Vietnamese aggressors will be defeated. They will be crushed in the hands of the broad masses of Kampuchea in the final analysis.

The EPRP once again, expresses its vehement condemnation of the Vietnamese aggression.

The EPRP once again, expresses its resolute



support to the struggle of the people of Kampuchea against the Vietnamese aggressors. The EPRP is convinced that the people of Kampuchea, led by the fraternal Communist Party of Kampuchea, will eventually be victorious.

The EPRP calls on all revolutionary, democratic and peace-loving forces the world over:

- to condemn the Vietnamese aggression;
- to support the just struggle of the Kampuchean people against the Vietnamese aggressors and their social-imperialist masters;
- to condemn the war-mongering social-imperialism and its criminal actions against the people of Kampuchea.

VICTORY TO THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA!!!

DOWN WITH THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS AND SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM!!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY!!!

EPRP/FC  
January 1979

Salute the Revolutionary Struggle of the Heroic  
Youth of Nepal

The students of Nepal are conducting a revolutionary struggle. Their struggle against political repression and for political freedom and democratic rights has set fire to the age old grievances of peasants, workers and other oppressed classes and strata of the population.

The students' demand for academic freedom, and particularly for their right to form their own union to replace the one formed by the government is a revolutionary demand.

Having presented a democratic and revolutionary demand, Nepalese students are also exposing the bankruptcy of the monarchial neo-colonial regime in the social, economic and political spheres. Their campaign in exposing the bankruptcy of the regime has had a very significant impact among peasants, workers and other oppressed classes. The regime's response was first a "wait and see" but then repression. But this would only enhance the struggle of not only of the youth but also of the oppressed labouring classes who are on the brink of walkouts or revolts. The students have already increased their demands; they now want the release of their comrades from prison. As the reactionary government persists in its repression, the crisis mounts affecting the widest strata of the population.

This phenomenon has already expresses itself. Workers have also put forward their demands for better pay. Peasants are demanding for land reform. That signals the beginning of a generalized crisis in Nepal, whose only solution is a social revolution led by a working class party.

Smith Wears a Black Mask Through Fake Elections

On April 21, 1979 the world heard that a black prime minister had been elected in racist Rhodesia. Yes, that was the final result of the fake elections conducted by the white racist regime of Smith. The new "premier" is said to be Bishop Muzerewa.

When the three so-called African politicians; Muzerewa, Sithole and Chirau, agreed with Smith for "an internal settlement" and a consequent "transitional government" last year, it has been taken eversince that the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front is the only organization that fights to do away with the racist regime of Smith. The Patriotic Front has stood for a fundamental



change of the racist system in Rhodesia while the Muzerewa-Sithole-Chirau traitorous clique stood for 'reforming' the racist system.

Accordin to the agreement between Smith and the traitorous clique of Mozerewa-Sithole-Chirau; the white racists would still contol the defence, police, judiciary and the state bureaucracy. That is without mentioning the control of the economy by whites. These are the most important branches of the state which the Smith regime has relied on eversince the unilateral declaration of independence in 1965. These have been and are the branches of the state which Smith needs most for his rule of the gun.

A black majority cabinet or parliament is not so important in this case. Smith has still his gun to perpetuate his rule. A black majority cabinet or parliament will not have the power to change the status quo. Smith had been forced to make a retreat, in doing so he didn't want to go far. Lots of 'solutions' were provided. All these 'solutions' did not suit him for he couldn't hide his racist system under a fake regime. In February last year, the Muzerewa-Sithole-Chirau clique volunteered to serve as a black mask through which Smith can 'hide' his racist system. If the last year's agreement for an "internal settlement" is the engagement the last month's election is certainly the marriage.

The "Anglo-American Plan for Rhodesia", which has been so much talked about, seems to disappear quietly. The American Senate has voted for the recognition of the so called "Muzerewa government". The conservative government in Britain is also making an overture towards the "Muzerewa government". Whatever the differences among western imperialist powers on this issue, the trend is to recognize Smith's regime in a black mask and lift the economic sanctions against Rhodesia though there hasn't been any.

All these show that, the recent fake elections in Rhodesia seems the path Smith and his imperialist allies are opting for. The difference between Smith's unilateral declaration of independence and the last month's 'elections' is that the first was too openly racist while the latter is a suitable mask to 'cover' the racist system. This will only anger the people of Zimbabwe and strengthen their determination to struggle for total independence.

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Results of the Sereba Battle in Pictures

picture no. 1 and 2.

weapons captured from the enemy being counted.







nos. 3,4,5,6,7  
 captured enemy weapons



EKRA fighters celebrating the victory



Members of the local peasant militia after







no. 8

EPRA fighters celebratig the victory



n0. 9 members of the local peasant militia after  
the victorious battle





no. 8  
fighters celebrate the victory

no. 10

children celebrating the victory







#### 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.