

Hail the First Congress of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front!

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The following is a leaflet issued by the Eritreans for Liberation in North America hailing the successful conclusion of the First Congress of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front. Recently news has arrived of important new victories by the Eritrean liberation fighters in their national liberation war against the fascist Ethiopian regime, which has the backing of U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

The First Congress of the E.P.L.F. was successfully concluded on January 31, 1977 in the liberated areas of Eritrea. The Congress was attended by over 300 delegates representing all units and departments of the E.P.L.F. and its mass organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth and students from inside and outside the country. Representatives of a number of liberation movements and revolutionary organizations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front and representatives from neighboring countries attended the Congress.

The Congress was organized on these main themes: Organize, politicize and arm the masses; Struggle to build principled and genuine unity through the formation of a united front; Advance the economic and social transformation of the liberated areas; and Persistence in protracted people's war.

The First Congress of the E.P.L.F. has a historical significance for the Eritrean revolution. It is the first congress in the history of the Eritrean revolution in which the democratic and revolutionary forces had the upper hand. It is the first congress where the Eritrean masses, organized and conscious of their role, participated in laying down the program and political line of their struggle.

The National Democratic Program adopted at the Congress represents the fundamental interests of the oppressed masses of Eritrea. It calls for:

- * The establishment of a people's democratic Eritrea.
- * A self-reliant, independent and planned economy.
- * Safeguarding the unity and equality of all Eritrean nationalities.
- * The development of revolutionary culture, education and health care.
- * Safeguarding the economic, political and organizational rights of the working class.
- * The complete equality of women with men in economic, political, social and cultural life.
- * A foreign policy of peace and non-alignment, of anti-imperialist solidarity with all just and revolutionary movements.

The victorious advance and deepening of the Eritrean revolution has become an ominous threat to imperialist and zionist interests and an inspiring example to the national liberation struggles in the region, as crystallized in the successful conclusion of the First Congress of the E.P.L.F. and the revolutionary program, resolutions and guidelines that it has adopted.

Eritreans for Liberation in North America is holding a nation-wide programme on the First Congress of the E.P.L.F. and its significance for the revolution in Eritrea and the whole region. We warmly invite all progressive and democratic people to attend.

Eritreans for Liberation in North America