



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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.... Major questions in the life of nations are settled only by force. The reactionary classes themselves are usually the first to resort to violence, to civil war; they are the first to "place the bayonet on the agenda", as the Russian autocracy has systematically and unswervingly been doing everywhere ever since January 9. (1905 - ABYOT) And since such a situation has arisen, since the bayonet has really become the main point on the political agenda, since insurrection has proved imperative and urgent - constitutional illusions and school exercises in parliamentarianism become merely a screen for the bourgeois betrayal of the revolution, a screen to conceal the fact that the bourgeoisie is "recoiling" from the revolution. It is precisely the slogan of dictatorship that the genuinely revolutionary class must advance, in that case.

Lenin: Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic revolution.

La Ident

E D I T O R I A L

Social-Imperialism Undertakes "Rescue Operation To "Save" Fascist Junta From Crumbling

Russia today is no longer the Union of SOVIET SOCIALIST Republics. The changes that took place in the one time USSR have transformed that country greatly. The dictatorship of the proletariat has been replaced by the dictatorship of the ruthless bourgeoisie. The party of Lenin, the CPSU, has become a counter-revolutionary bourgeois party. In their foreign policy, the present day rulers of Russia have thrown overboard the Marxist-Leninist motto of "proletarians and oppressed peoples of the world, unite!" The revolutionary principle of proletarian internationalism has been replaced with counter-revolutionary and imperialist interference in the internal affairs of other countries, parties, and revolutions in order to destroy proletarian or national democratic revolutions. They are involved in a fierce contention with US imperialism to divide and re-divide the world. They are also in collusion with US imperialism to negotiate on "who will get the lion's share." This imperialist policy, as a corner-stone of the bourgeois political superstructure, definitely presupposes a corresponding economic base. Utilizing this exploitative production relations is the bureaucratic bourgeoisie. This bureaucratic bourgeoisie at the head of the state-monopoly capitalism in Russia has, like all imperialists, neo-colonial ambitions. Like other imperialists, it has become not only an imperialist power but one of the two super-powers in the world. Thus, its military build-up and its desperate

adventure for neo-colonies. One thing that makes it different from the other imperialists is that it talks about "socialism"; "Marxism-Leninism", etc... It is "socialist in words but imperialist in deeds." It is social-imperialist.

In order to comprehend the collusion of social-imperialism with fascism in Ethiopia, one has only to recall the general features of imperialism and fascism. As long as imperialism, in whatever form it may come, exists there is always war; Fascism is also war; it is the rule of the extreme right wing bourgeoisie in the service of monopoly capital, imperialism. Fascism misuses and prostitutes socialism. It can even claim to be "Marxist-Leninist" depending on the level and degree of development of Marxism at a given space and time. Fascism is demagogic; as George Dimitroff said, "it plays on the burning feelings of the masses", on their economic problems. Fascism is anti-democracy and anti-proletarian. "Democracy" according to fascism is the right to defend the rule of the most terrorist bourgeois dictatorship. Support fascism and you have every right to speak, write or demonstrate ONLY in favour of it. That is fascism.

Fascism has general characteristics. But, its pattern of development, its rise to power, the extent of its demagogy differ from one place to another. Because of its demagogic appeal and "socialist" and "anti-capitalist" rhetorics, fascism is generally deceitful. What raises this deceitful image of fascism to an even more deception is the collaboration of "socialists in words but imperialists in deeds." That is what has happened in Ethiopia. A fascist regime, whose demagogy about socialism has gone to the extent of professing "Marxism-Leninism", married on the local level to "socialists in words but imperialists in deeds".

Why the Russian social-imperialists got married with the fascists in Ethiopia and why they preferred the regime in Addis Abeba above Somalia is now a common knowledge. That Ethiopia is rich in mineral and other natural resources, that it is strategically situated in a very important part of the world, that it is larger in terms of area as well as population with the agricultural potential of being the bread basket for the whole of western Europe stimulates any imperialist appetite. That constitutes the main factor as to be the motive for their contention with US imperialism. There is another very important factor as well- the ongoing and ever developing national democratic revolution led by a staunchly anti-revisionist proletarian party, EPRP. The victory of the Ethiopian revolution led by EPRP would have far-reaching repercussions for the struggle of the oppressed peoples in the Horn of Africa.

For the new Tsars in Kremlin turning Ethiopia to a Russian neo-colony constitutes the cornerstone of their African policy. That requires maintaining Mengistu's regime in power and destroying the Ethiopian revolution. Before they indulge in open commitment with the Ethiopian fascists, the Brezhnev clique had done all it can to have the lion's share in absorbing as many pro-Moscow neo-colonies as possible. Castro and Podgorny were sent for this mission to bring Ethiopia, Somalia, South Yemen and Eritrea in one pro-Moscow assortment. They did not succeed. Somalia's refusal to comply with Brezhnev's plan signalled the open commitment of the Russians on the Derg's side.

On basis of what considerations the Kremlin Tsars decided to be committed to a crippled re-

gime, is not yet known. One thing, however, is obvious, i.e.: they are trying to fulfill an imperialist task which US imperialism could not succeed in fulfilling: mainly to maintain a stable neo-colony in Ethiopia. To keep a tottering regime in power, which is threatened by a dynamic social revolution from below, they had to do exactly what the US imperialists did in Indo-China. When the French colonialists left Vietnam, US imperialism stepped in to maintain a neo-colonial administration in the south. As if military hardware could decide the destiny of oppressed peoples, US imperialism did all it can materially and in terms of personnel in the south of Vietnam. Just like the US imperialists, the social-imperialists are also doing all they can to keep the fascist junta in power. A huge amount of armament is being shipped and flown to Colonel Mengistu. Russians and their puppets are directing the important functions of the Addis Abeba government. They have set up a high-level military commission which directs the main military operations of the government forces, that are mainly directed against the revolution led by EPRP, the Eritrean national movement and in the Ogaden. They have actually started leading combats and battles in Eritrea against the two fronts and in Tigray against EPRA. They are all defeated and routed. Like all imperialists, they forget that it is not the gun but the people who decide the fate of history and that men make history according to circumstances they encounter and not according to their wishes. They have also forgotten that what is decisive in a revolution is not military experts and military hardware but the revolutionary movement of the masses who are led by a proletarian party. They have also forgotten that repressive regimes have been sent to the museums of history by peoples war; because **PEOPLES WAR IS INVINCIBLE!**

Just like all other imperialist powers, the Russian social-imperialists have also economic objectives; to exploit and plunder our country. They have the neo-colonial administration, they pour all sorts of military hardware on to the Addis Abeba regime and then they are out to exploit. A 1976 study of the Institute For World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences entitled "Ethiopia on the Road of Non-capitalist Development" says the following:

"The socialist countries including Hungary may develop wide-ranging economic ties and co-operation ventures with Ethiopia.

"Ethiopia is currently engaged in developing its economic potential, its natural resources. Its mineral resources, oil etc. have not even been prospected properly.

"Ethiopian agriculture has inexhaustible potentials. The country is extremely rich in livestock. Over its vast territory, products both of the tropical and of the temperate zones can be grown. By establishing agro-industrial combines, it would be possible to ensure the supply of our country with animal-feed proteins. We could also procure coffee, cotton and other products on the Ethiopian market. The quality of raw leather goods is good. Ethiopia may be an important market for our industry. Talks concerning the supply of vehicles have already been started. Ethiopia could stock up its park of buses by buying from Hungary. Ethiopian development may be an important outlet for certain sectors of our machine-building industry. The Ethiopian textile industry is an excellent opportunity for the textile-mill machinery manufactured in Hungary. Cooperation with the emerging Ethiopian pharmaceutical industry is a challenge and an opportunity

to our well-developed pharmaceutical sector. The outlining and development of fields of mutually favourable cooperation is a joint Ethiopian-Hungarian task. Developing Ethiopia may become an important partner of cooperation for Hungary.

"These statements hold for the other socialist (sic!) countries, too. Ethiopia needs Soviet tractors and oil refinery equipment, and the products of the national economies of the other socialist(suc!) countries, too."

Would Brezhnev save Mengistu from falling? History has amply demonstrated that a people of a backward country waging a protracted people's war under the correct leadership of a proletarian party can defeat a big imperialist power armed to the teeth. Social-imperialism has replaced US imperialism in Ethiopia. There is no doubt that it will meet the same fate as US imperialism and will be driven out from Ethiopia ignominiously. The frantic airlift of huge armaments, and the dispatching of mercenary troops won't save the tottering regime of colonel Mengistu.

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NEWS

Economic Conditions Worsen

A year ago, when the cost of living began to rise, the workers took up the following slogan.

"the salary of the worker is thirty (Birr/month) the cost of teff (stable diet) is sixty!"

The working class and its Party began putting up demands for higher wages (which have virtually remained frozen since the junta took power). The fascists, together with the oportunists and revisionists, denounced this just demand. Day after day, in newspapers, over radio and television they hypocritically tried, as in the previous two years, to use all means to justify that "the country is not able to meet this unreasonable demand." However, to working people everywhere it was un-acceptable to live on 30 Birr a month, while members of the Derg and the bureaucratic bourgeoisie were living in comfort on salaries ranging from 500 - 4000 Birr a month! What is more, many also received a daily "hardship" allowance of 10 - 30 Birr. No wonder the working class as well as lower strata of the civil service and others dismissed with contempt the regime's sermons on wage restraint.

Conditions have now become worse. A quintal (100 kgs.) of teff is now sold at 100 Birr. Onions, tomato, green pepper, etc. costing 10 cents (100 cents = 1 Birr) three years ago, now costs more than ten times that much. These are becoming a luxury for the poor. What about meat and butter one may ask. Well, it is a long time since they became out of bounds for the working people. A kilogram of butter for instance, now costs 10 Birr and some times, even more.

It may be assumed that since teff and other agricultural products are expensive, the producers i.e.- the peasants are reaping the benefits. But that is not the case. Prices are fixed by the bureaucratic bourgeoisie and those monopolist traders who back the government. For example, the teff sold to the public at 100 Birr by traders, is bought by them for only 35 Birr.

The fascist regime now being armed to the teeth by the social-imperialists directly, and the U.S. imperialists indirectly, requires more than ever before, the super-exploitation of the working peoples - in rural and urban Ethiopia. The second massive Russian arms-supply worth 200 million Birr (over US \$1000 million) was paid in hard currency and through the sale of primary products, like coffee, to the Russians at 20 percent below the price of coffee at the world market. Already over 500 million Birr from Ethiopia's meagre foreign reserves have been paid in advance.

The Kremlin may have taken the first big strides to turn our country into a neo-colony, but no matter how hard the struggle against the puppet regime and imperialists of all hues, the broad masses of Ethiopia led by EPRP and supported by the genuine socialist countries, Marxist-Leninist Parties and progressives the world over, will triumph.

Military "aid"? or Dominating the Arms Market?

The Russian social-imperialists are urging that they be paid in cash for all the weapons they are selling. Cash in US dollars, hard currency or gold is what is demanded by them. The recently ordered 200 million worth of arms was paid in cash; in US dollars.

On the other hand; typical of those who divide and redivide the oppressed nations, the

regime in East Germany recently exchanged 500 tractors with coffee at a rate of 0.85 reduction for every pound at the world coffee market. East Germany sold the coffee in Europe at a very exorbitant price. It was not even considered whether or not the tractors were suitable for the country's terrains, whether or not they were needed now. Another batch of 200 tractors has arrived from Yugoslavia on a similar basis of non-equivalent and exploitative exchange. The Russians have also succeeded in forcing the regime to pass a circular that buses be imported only from Russia.

Increasing Reports of Manhandling of Women by Cuban and Russian Mercenaries.

The Ethiopian masses hate the Cuban and Russian mercenaries very much. This is not only because of the active support they render to the Derg to keep it in power, but also because of the injustices and excesses they are committing against the masses.

There are reports that say Cuban and Russian mercenaries are keeping prostitutes for more than 3 days and let them go without paying them. A Russian officer in Fitch military camp is reported to have paid 10 Birr for a woman. Three other Russian officers, four together, did every filthy thing against the woman. In Addis Ababa High Zone 23, Kebelle 11, eight of the Cubans residing in the ex-Ghanian Embassy, were doing everything against two women. They let them go without pay.

In Makalle, the notorious Cuban "doctors" are reported to prefer women "patients" with slight 'headaches' above even wounded soldiers. It has also been reported that these same "doctors" raped two women patients. For all their mercenary

conducts and the special privileges they are enjoying, the Cuban soldiers are increasingly hated by the government soldiers.

It has become customary that Cuban soldiers kidnap women using Mercedes and other luxurious cars. In the old airport area, where American Mapping Mission GIs used to stay previously and where most of the Cuban "GIs" are now staying girls, young and adult women do not go out in the streets after 6 P.M. - another "curfew"!

Pay For the "Militia"

As the "militia" continued its demand for a monthly pay, the regime is forced to declare that each "militia" man would receive 20 Birr a month. ABYOT No. 6 reported that the council of ministers decided that the "militia" men be paid 20 Birr. The ministers' meeting dispersed as they could not trace where they would find the sum. Now the Derg has agreed with their decision because of the refusal of the "militia" men to fight unless they are paid. It is doubtful if the Derg would afford to 20 Birr a month to each man of the 100,000 "militia"

Imported Goods Dumped in Djibouti

Hundreds of tons of imported goods have been dumped at the port of Djibouti. The Mengistu regime couldn't transport them to the country for the railway line from Dire Dawa to Djibouti has been broken. Nor could it get them through Assab because Assab in the first place is itself overloaded and secondly the Addis Abeba Assab road is also insecure. The Djibouti government, on the other hand, has warned that unless the Addis Abeba regime removes the goods it would sell them in auction. Ashagre Yigletu, minister

of Commerce and Tourism of the junta, went to Kenya to demand the Kenyatta regime to allow the junta to transport the goods from Djibouti to Mombassa and then from Mombassa to Ethiopia through Sidamo. The frenzied junta is desperately bombing from the air the areas along the road that links Southern Ethiopia with Kenya in a terror campaign to make any ambush on the road "impossible." A considerable amount of the stockpile in Djibouti has been damaged by rain.

Rain Damaged Crops

It has also been reported that 10% of this year's crop produce has been destroyed by the rainfall in October. This affects the income from the sale of agricultural produce on the world market, notably coffee. This is apart from this year's failure in agricultural production because of the war in which thousands of youthful peasants were disengaged from production for being forcibly drafted to the so called "militia."

Acute Crisis in Asmara

Asmara, besieged by the heroic fighters of the Eritrean liberation fronts, is found in its most acute economic crisis. There is almost no fuel except for the vehicles of the besieged junta army supplied by air lift. This is mainly because Asmara is cut off from all land communications. Since one month there is no water supply, though it is sometimes available, no electricity and no bread. Factories have all been closed since two months ago.

JUNTA DELEGATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Czechoslovakia:

The government of Mengistu Haile Mariam and the Czech revisionists have concluded important

agreements. The Derg's delegation was headed by Gessese Wolde Kidan, Derg's chief for "Economic Affairs". He was accompanied by Finance Minister, Tefera Wolde Semayat. The delegation had earlier had talks with the Czech premier Lubomir Strougal.

The Czech revisionists have agreed to be more involved in the Derg's war against the Ethiopian revolution led by EPRP, in the national movement of Eritrea and in the Ogaden war. Agreement has been reached on specific Czech "assistance" to the Derg in terms of supply of heavy machinery. Reports from Prague indicate that the revisionists are worried over the junta's ability to pay back for the "dis-interested aid" now that Ethiopia has become increasingly mortgaged to Russia.

MAJOR DAWIT'S VISITS ABROAD:

The junta's No. 2 at the ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maj. Dawit Wolde Giorgis, has been visiting Western European countries, to ask the West to give the Derg more time to stabilize the situation in Ethiopia. During his visit to London, where he stayed with his older brother Ayalew (who also happens to be the Ethiopian ambassador to the U.K.) he conferred with the British Foreign Secretary, David Owen. The major asked his British counter part not to supply arms to Somalia. According to British bourgeois papers, Britain has "agreed in principle that no weapons should be supplied while the fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia continues." On the question of the reported "Ethiopian plan to invade Somalia," a point denied by the Derg, Owen left Dawit "under no illusion about the dangers of such adventurism."

While in London, the junta official paid a visit to the overseas service of the BBC to lodge a complaint against the Corporation for hostile

coverage against the Derg. ABYOT would like to point out that on the contrary, the Western media have been objectively giving a favourable report coverage. In some cases, subtle and sometimes direct slander against our Party have been carried in the bourgeois media.

Major Dawit has amongst other countries also visited Italy. In his talks with Italian officials he strongly urged Italy to take steps to close down the Rome offices of the EPLF and the ELF, the two national liberation movements in Eritrea.

The permanent Secretary, has been away from Ethiopia for about 4 months, ostensibly to attend the general assembly meetings of the U.N. in New York. But, during his absence abroad, particularly in the U.S., he had several meetings with top American officials.

COL. FELEQE TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA

The Junta's Foreign Minister, Col. Feleqe Gedle Giorgis is to visit Yugoslavia shortly. He is expected to raise the issue of further 'aid' to the jointly Yugoslav-Ethiopian' owned 10,000 hectares of commercial farm in southern Ethiopia.

The minister is a former police colonel of the old Haile Selassie feudal regime, who studied for 9 years in Yugoslavia. So he will not be a stranger to his hosts. Neither is he unknown at Britain's police training college at Hendon, and also at New Scotland Yard which he visited both for the last time in 1973.

BERHANU BAYIH IN MALAGASY, NAIROBI

Maj. Berhanu Bayih, Derg member with responsibility for foreign relations visited the Malagasy Republic in the middle of January, to solicit support for the junta's reactionary war with Somalia. Somalia too has been wooing Malagasy to accept her viewpoint in the conflict. The

Malagasy President Ratsiraka, had previously sent two separate delegations to mediate.

On his way to the Malagasy Rep., Berhanu made a stop-over in Nairobi where he conferred with Kenyan officials including the foreign minister Wanumi Waiyaki. Kenya (a neo-colony of Britain and now increasingly of U.S imperialism) and Ethiopia have a joint defence agreement which dates back to the Haile Selassie regime.

U.S. CONFIRMS ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIAN JUNTA

Despite consistent denials by the fascist colonels' regime of zionist support, U.S. is now reported to have told the Israeli authorities to withdraw its military assistance to Ethiopia.

The Kuwaiti newspaper, 'Al-Qabas' wrote on 18th Jan. that the U.S. in addition to asking "Israel to withdraw its military advisers," also demanded it to 'stop training the Ethiopian army' or carrying out any military activities." As reported in a number of issues in ABYOT and statements by the Foreign committee of EPRP, the Israelis have been instrumental in training the Ethiopian Army Division 'Nebalbal'. Further more, they have up to the present moment been supplying the Ethiopian armed forces with vital spare parts for its American built air craft and military hardware. The U.S. which had knowledge of the Israeli involvement (in fact encouraged it) spoke only now against it, as it was seen as a possible hindrance to an Israeli settlement with Egypt, which supports the Eritreans and Somalia. Israel's involvement on the side of the junta was also noted recently in the right-wing British paper, The Times (21/1/78). It stated: "Paradoxically in Ethiopia, the Cubans are partnered by the Israelis, who have given the tottering Ethiopian forces incalculable help in keeping American logistical equipment going."

MASSIVE REPRESSION AGAINST WORKERS SPEARHEADED BY RUSSIANS

The Derg whose record of anti-working class activities is growing in leaps and bounds continues to arrest, kidnap and kill workers and youth.

The security police death-squads now under the direct control of the Russian social-imperialists and their East German and Cuban mercenaries, have began the new year with massive murder-hunts of EPRP sympathisers, workers and youth. The junta and its new masters are particularly frightened of the activities of the Party within the working class, where it has widespread support.

On 15 January the fascists announced the murder in cold blood of six heroic fighters of the Ethiopian working class. These were:

- a) Alemayehu Berhanu, a garage mechanic in Debre Marcos, capital of Gojjam Region, north-west Ethiopia.
- b) Redwan Abubaker, a worker at the St. George brewery in Addis Abeba
- c) Belachew Teshome, a worker at the above brewery
- d) Nolawi Abebe, a worker at Ethiopian Airlines.
- e) Araya Wubneh, a member of the Debre Marcos section of the Dis-abled Men's Union.
- f) Daniel Eshetu, was working at the State statistics department.
- g) Ibrahim Yousuf)
- ~~h) Andarge Bizuneh) from Addis Abeba~~
- ~~i) Solomon Ruga,)~~

In addition to the above, the blood-stained régime also murdered during the first two weeks of January alone close to 750 workers, youth and other progressives. There is also the recent killing of 16 agricultural workers at the Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit (CADU).

The list of the régime's crimes against the working class is endless. Denied is the elementary right of the workers to organise themselves. Denied is their right to strike against their exploiters. Also denied is, like the rest of the masses, their elementary human rights. Their trade union, the Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions (CELU) was banned. Its "crime": the leadership having been taken by revolutionary workers in a revolt from below. The organ of CELU, "The Voice of Labour", which combined specific working class demands with general demands of political democracy and agrarian revolution, was found too threatening to the Derg and was banned as well!

One of the most outstanding, fearless proletarian fighters, chairman of the revolutionary committee of CELU, Marcos Hagos, was also among those who were murdered on 24 March 1977. The flagrant anti-working class crimes are being continued with ferocious barbarity and with the full connivance of the hegemonists from the Kremlin and their Fidelista advance guards. The whole campaign falls within the Moscow-Havana-E. Berlin-Derg strategy of draining the sea in order to catch the fish.

We would like to remind the Russian social-imperialists and all their puppets, that EPRP will never flinch from its consciously chosen path of the New Democratic and Socialist revolutions. As a vanguard of the proletariat, ~~it is~~ as a part of the proletariat fusing the socialist consciousness with the working class movement, creating death-defying socialist proletarians and building the worker-peasant alliance, it

will create the base for the revolution. And by leading, perfecting and strengthening this alliance with Marxist-Leninist leadership (the party), a peoples' army and a multitude of revolutionary mass-organizations in the process of being united in a broad peoples' democratic united front, EPRP will build peoples' democracy and eventually socialism in the ONLY way possible; with the full participation of the broad masses.

The senseless killings of workers will only make us continue the fight with redoubled efforts. As for our attitudes towards the fascist Derg and the Russian social-imperialists, they may be outwardly "strong", but actually we hold them in total contempt in the final analysis. They are nothing but paper tigers.

Junta-Russia Bombard Civilians

The Russian puppet régime in Addis Abeba has begun bombing raids on Eritrean towns and villages. Like the US in Indo-China, the régime has also been using napalm and cluster bombs. Among the towns and villages hit are: Keren, Agordat, Tessenei, Haygota, Mendefera, Ali Gidir, Himbirti and the port of Massawa.

At Massawa, where heavy fighting is still going on, the social-imperialists themselves had to come to the assistance of the junta. Russian destroyers have been shelling EPLF positions. But reports from the area indicate that the bombs have been hitting civilian targets in the town itself. As a result thousands of its residents have fled, leaving Massawa with only about a quarter of its original inhabitants of 30,000.

The régime's escalation of the air raids on Eritrea is but a last desperate and barbarous attempt to bring the heroic Eritrean masses to "their knees". Like the broad masses of Ethiopia, the Eritrean masses too would neither be cowed nor

crushed by fascist terror.

The EPRP expresses its total condemnation of the brutal massacres of the Eritrean people carried out by the fascist junta and its new master, Russian social-imperialism. EPRP would like the Eritrean fighters to know once more that our party and the working peoples and progressives of Ethiopia are with them.

Russian, Cuban War Ministers in Ethiopia

Dimitri Ustinov and Raul Castro, the Russian and Cuban war ministers respectively, have been in Addis Abeba during the second week of January. They were both accompanied by several high ranking army, navy and airforce officers. They came to Ethiopia at a very short notice to review at close range, the deteriorating situation faced by the puppet regime.

Several meetings were held, some of which took place outside Addis Abeba. One such place was in Bishoftu. Strict secrecy surrounded the movements of the two ministers. In all the talks, the Russian ambassador to Ethiopia, Ratanov (who is already acting like U.S. ambassador Korry used to under the feudal Haile Selassie regime) was present.

Ustinov is reported to have left after a 3 - day stay leaving some of his generals behind, while Raul Castro was taken on a tour to the northern and eastern fronts. All these activities remind one of the Vietnam days when MacNamara as U.S. War Minister used to go to the then Saigon (HO CHI MINH CITY) with senior American generals. Nothing but resounding defeat was the result of all those plans for "counter-insurgency" "napalm and cluster bombs", and mass destruction. True the Indo-Chinese people suffered much at the hands of the U.S. imperialists. But in the end they were victorious and could defeat Uncle Sam. Today, the peoples of the Horn of Africa may be subjected to the worst kinds of machinations of Russian social-imperialism

and U.S. imperialism. They too will suffer like the Indo-Chinese, but like them too, they will become victorious in the end and will defeat both imperialists.

KHARTOUM-ADDIS ABEBA RESUME AIR-LINKS

Sudan and Ethiopia have resumed on 15th January the air-links severed last July. The decision to lift the ban on flights between the two countries follows the recommendation by an OAU reconciliation committee. The committee met in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 12th to 15th Dec. 1977.

Earlier this month, the junta's ambassador in Khartoum met with the Sudanese President, during which he asked the Sudan to return Ethiopian soldiers and officers who took refuge in that country. It is to be seen whether the Sudanese authorities will comply with the request.

S.YEMENIS, HUNGARIANS VISIT ETHIOPIA

Revisionists and opportunists continue to visit Ethiopia and give their backing to the junta. Last month the Bulgarian Prime Minister at the head of a large delegation conferred with Colonel Mengistu, and promised to give his regime "as much assistance as Bulgaria could afford." This was followed by the East Germans who by now have become frequent "visitors" to Addis.

More recently it was the turn of the South Yemenis and Hungarians. The opportunist Yemenis who only yesterday gave public material and moral support to the Eritrean liberation movements, and sympathised with the Ethiopian peoples' struggle led by the EPRP, today belong to the most vocal supporters of the murderous regime in Addis. A three-man Yemeni delegation visited the Ethiopian capital between Jan. 15th and Jan. 20th. The delegation's leader, Salim Bajamir, a central

committee member of the S.Yemeni National Front and editor in chief of its organ 'Ath-Thawri; spoke warmly about the junta and the struggle it is leading against what he called - "anti-unity and anti-people forces." The "anti-unity" phrase is a clear reference to the just struggles of the Eritrean masses for their independence. Support for the regime's policy is also a further encouragement for the junta to continue massacring workers, peasants and the youth, in Eritrea and throughout Ethiopia.

The visit by the S.Yemenis was preceded by a Hungarian delegation led by the Foreign Minister, Frigyes Puja. Like all his other revisionist colleagues who have been to Ethiopia running the errand for Russian social-imperialism, he gave an assurance to the junta leaders that "Hungary will provide all the assistance and support in line with its policy of international solidarity with progressive countries." The "progressive" countries which the revisionists usually refer to are all those who may use the rhetoric of fighting U.S. imperialism in words, but who in reality are still colluding with it. Moreover, such countries are also those which begin to open their doors wide open to social-imperialist exploitation.

It is also important to note that with regard to Hungarian 'assistance' to Ethiopia, it is the former country which has benefited so far. It has sold scores of buses at high prices, while receiving payment for them with hard currency, as well as primary products sold at a lower price than the world market quotations.

REGIME'S THUGS BOMB ADDIS MOSQUE

The terrorist fascist regime had made a secret plan to plant explosives and throw bombs in Mosques and Churches and to accuse the EPRP of

this dastardly act. However, this nefarious scheme was revealed and exposed by the EPRP, which carried a wide-spread agitation amidst the populace. The cornered fascists stuck to their lies and publicly broadcasted over the Radio calling the people to be vigilant as "they (the Derg) had information on EPRP plans to bomb mosques, churches and machine-gun crowds." The whole of Addis Abeba laughed and knowing well the nature of the barbaric junta, avoided churches and mosques.

The matter did not end there. Near the mosque at Adere Sefer (Addis Abeba) landrovers carrying the Madebo assassin squads were ambushed by the area's EPRP - organised self-defense units. They were all wiped out. Numerous other fascist soldiers appeared on the scene later and furious at the punishment they had received in the hands of the people, the fascist thugs ran wild like mad dogs, machine-gunned innocent people in the area and threw a bomb at the mosque nearby. Some sixty people were reported killed. Radio Ethiopia, living up to its popular name of "Radio Free lies", announced the same night that the EPRP has machine-gunned innocent people and thrown a bomb at the mosque!

The colonels' junta has once again resorted to its terror campaign of the residents of the capital. Last month (December), a terrorist squad from col. Mengistu's own intelligence unit carried a bombing raid on the main Muslim mosque in the Mercato area of the city. In the incident, 4 persons were killed and 13 others were injured, some seriously.

The junta is known to resort to all sorts of vile and despicable acts of terrorism and repression, whenever the popular, democratic and revolutionary movement under our Party's leadership surges forward. As usual, blame was put on what the regime called "anarchists," a term used to

describe" our Party.

The EPRP enjoys immense popularity among the people of the working-class district of Mercato. It has wide-spread support both from Mulims and Christians. The terrorist action was aimed at hitting the deep support for the Party among the masses in Mercato. However, this plan failed miserably for two reasons. Firstly, the Party's intelligence section had an advance knowledge of the junta's sinister plans and had warned the public. Secondly, the masses have learnt from hard day-to-day experiences of similar actions by the regime in the past.

Undoubtly, if there is anything that the colonels' regime is a past master of, it is its capacity for lying. But it is always caught red-handed by its clumsy actions. Comrade Mao once said, that reactionaries never learn. They try to extinguish the fire of revolution but fail. They try again, and fail until their doom.

KIDNAPPINGS, KILLINGS RAMPANT

As the regime's internal crises has reached a crippling dimension, the infighting between its various factions has taken a more gruesome turn. It has now started to kidnap and murder innocent people using taxis and other vehicles, in a manner reminiscent of the terror-campaigns of the Uruguyan and Argentinian fascists. This campaign is mainly directed at workers and the urban poor. It has already heightened the resistance of the masses to the regime's brutal repression.

Our Party will continue to defend the people to the best of its ability from being butchered by col. Mengistu's thugs.

POLICE-CAPTAIN MURDERED

The killing of a traffic police-captain has sparked off a mutiny within the police force in Arussi Region. The murder of the captain occur-

red in Asela, the capital of the region, and was carried out by one of the junta's killer squads. Attempts are now being made by the authorities to cover up the extent of the crisis.

EXTENT OF LOSSES AT HUMERA

The two arch-enemies of the Ethiopian masses, the fascist regime and the warlord organization, the EDU, are a burden on the country. One such example is the struggle which the two groups waged over Humera. The feudalist EDU first took Humera, last January and agro-industrial town in Begemdir Region, north-west Ethiopia, and held until May (1977) when junta forces over-ran it. The battles to re-capture the town took just over three weeks. The Party's reports from the area now estimate that as a result of the fighting, close to 47 millions birr worth of agricultural machinery has been destroyed.

POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN JUNTA "TRADE UNION"

The so-called "All Ethiopia Trade Union", (AETU) established by the junta to help it suppress the workers, is locked in factional struggles. The bloody power struggles going on between various groups within the regime has manifested itself also in the AETU.

ME'ISONE, which has been disgracefully rooted out from important posts in the regime, are reported to have attempted to stage strikes. The instrument for calling this strike was supposed to be the leadership of AETU, whom ME'ISONE helped install when they exercised influence with Mengistu.

They intended to call for raising the minimum wage of workers to 120 birr (US\$58 or f30) a month. In fact, this demand was first raised by the EPRP 3 years ago. At that time, our Party and its

central organ-Democracia - were accused of trying to "sell out the revolution for 120 birr." Prominent among the accusers were none other than the opportunists who later formed the now discredited ME'ISONE.

At the current level of total economic chaos when the Birr has become almost useless, and when supply of basic necessities is short in the market, such a call falls short of the workers' demands to meet his real needs. For example, teff - a staple diet costs 100 Birr per 1 quintal (100 kgs.) a kilogram of butter is 10 Birr, and a kilo worth of onions costs 1 Birr. The patented 'revolutionaries' do know these facts very well. Their motive for planning the strike lies in their striving to re-capture their earlier influence within the regime.

The workers have been well-advised by our Party not to fall for this social-fascist scheme intended to advance ME'ISONE interests. The workers, have been and will continue to struggle for economic and political rights.

FAKE 'GUERRILLAS' STUMBLE

Eighteen traitorous intellectuals, popularly known as "banda" in Ethiopia, have been caught while heading for the bush, not far from Debre Margos, capital of Gojjam Region.

They were apprehended with money, weapons,, margarine, butter and sweets! It appears they were probably dreaming that they were heading for Paris. How else can one explain that genuine "fighters" would be carrying chocolates and other sweets for their jungle life? Poor "guerrillas" forced into an un-familiar life without any idea of where to go!

FASCIST BRUTALITIES CONTINUE TO MOUNT

The demagogic colonels' regime continues its futile attempts to sell itself as "socialist." Such a lie will not wash. Its everyday vile activities betray the big lie of its being "socialist." Ethiopia is now being ruled by a murderous and repressive regime. This regime continues to kill and even mutilate, like wild dogs, the bodies of its victims.

A recent example is typical. Half a dozen people were taken from the Coca Cola bottling company and the Anbessa Transport Ltd. They were later found dead and their bodies mutilated almost beyond recognition. One teenager survived the original six by escaping.

In another incident, soldiers opened machine-guntire on a group of youth after having forced them against a wall. They died instantly. This cowardly crime was committed near the Nigerian Embassy in Addis Abeba.

MORE 'MILITIA' BEING DRILLED

Another group of 50,000 'militia' is being trained again. The forceably recruited 'militia' will be reinforced this time by a so-called political cadre of 200 "banda" (traitor) drawn from assorted opportunists. The social-fascists are themselves being trained with the conscripted peasant 'militia'.

SCARCITY OF SUGAR

Although Ethiopia can be (and has been) self-sufficient in sugar production, the country as a whole is on a ration due to artificial scarcity created by the large export of sugar. The regime utilizes sugar and other basic commodities to buy Mig-aircraft, F - 5s, missiles and other military hardware to suppress the peoples' revolution headed by our Party.

EPRA ANNAHILATES NEBELBAL UNIT

In Adi Arkai, Begemdir Region, a fierce two-day battle took place between units of the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Army (EPRA) and the 217th Nebelbal regiment. The battle resulted in a victory for our army and in the disarray and defeat for the enemy.

In the battle which lasted between January 7 and 9, fifty-five (55) enemy soldiers were wiped out, seventeen (17) wounded and one hundred and forty-five (145) captured. In addition to the human loss, the enemy also lost the material provision it was desperately trying to deliver to its forces in Eritrea.

Large quantities of arms were also captured.

1. P.R.C. with other 77 radio communication equipments
2. 75 mm. heavy guns with few shells
3. 82 mm. Mortars with their shells
4. 60 mm. Mortars with their shells
5. 50 caliber machine guns with their ammunitions
6. R.P.G. launchers with their rockets
7. Grenov Gs. with their ammunitions
8. other machine guns with their ammunitions
9. Kalashnikov guns.
10. Light and heavy automatic rifles with their ammunitions
11. Uniforms, canned food and sleeping bags.

A total of 13 heavy transport trucks and 8 other military vehicles were burnt down. Major Getachew Yosef, the leader of the regiment, was captured alive; he later joined the EPRA.

The peasants of Adi Arkai actively participated on the side of their army. They brought well over six hundred (600) donkeys to help transport the liberated material. The liberated 480 quintals of sugar were distributed to the peasants and residents of the Adi Arkai area at a very low price.

This new sugar supply was welcomed with great enthusiasm. Tea-houses which had been closed for more than a year began to function again. Considering the fact that there has not been any sugar supply in the area for 18 months, the small quantity would more than meet the peoples' needs for the next four months.

PRISONERS HUMANELY TREATED:

Unlike the junta's barbaric treatment of its political prisoners, those captured by our army are always well treated. Following the Party's teachings on captured prisoners, and by adhering firmly to its proletarian line, EPRA treated the prisoners humanely. Those wounded were tended. An intensive three day political education was given to the 120 soldiers, 13 drivers and 12 asst. drivers. They were later permitted to leave.

Those who chose to leave were helped materially and logistically to wherever they wished to go. There is no doubt that our army is building its strength in the process of fighting the enemy.

2000 'MILITIA' DESERT JUNTA

Increases in the desertion rate both from the regular army and the 'militia' have been reported in the past issues of ABYOT. Thanks to the correct policy of our Party and peoples' army on political work within the armed forces of the regime, the desertion rate far from decreasing continues to rise.

Recently 2000 members of the 'militia' force in Menz District, Shewa Region, have fled to the field carrying with them vast quantities of liberated weapons and ammunition.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS FILLED HOSPITALS

As the war continues in the Ogaden, the number of wounded or killed increases all the time.

Thousands of wounded soldiers have recently been brought to Addis Abeba, for the hospitals in Harrar and Dire Dawa were already full. There are more than one thousand wounded soldiers in the Dire Dawa hospital alone. In Addis Abeba too, the Armed Forces Hospital, the Black Lion Hospital, Paulos Hospital and others are all filled with wounded soldiers. The regime has now started to turn schools into hospitals. The Good Shepherd School has now been turned into a hospital for wounded soldiers with about 500 beds. As the grievances of soldiers continue, the Derg is playing its usual demagoguery. It said that it laid the foundation for a 30 million dollars worth hospital for the wounded.

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WORLD HIGHLIGHTS

Sadats Gambles on the Cause of the Palestinian People

In an open betrayal of the cause of the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their homeland and the cause of the oppressed Arab people in their struggle against Zionists, Sadat of Egypt, hailed by the imperialist bourgeoisie as "the brave Sadat", went to Jerusalem to search for "peace." In a civilized belly crawling, Sadat knelt down before the Zionist Knesset only to declare his renunciation of the basic principle of the Palestinian and Arab resistance against Zionism, mainly the refusal to recognize the Zionist state, the fight to the last to regain Palestine and form a Palestinian state in which Palestinians and Jews can live in peace.

Of all times, why did Sadat venture his political gamble in "search of peace" at a time when the relatively more staunch Zionist, Begin, is ruling the Zionist state in Tel Aviv? Bourgeois capitulation, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab betrayal pure and simple! What did he achieve in his "negotiation with Begin"? Virtually nothing! Except humiliation to himself.

It is not unusual that reactionary Arab states betray the cause of the heroic Palestinian people. Sadat's betrayal, however, is unheard of. He betrayed the very principle on which the kernel of the whole Middle East problem rests. This is certainly the result of the diplomatic successes of US imperialism. The success of US imperialism to keep Egypt in its sphere of influence would mean keeping Egypt out of the pro-Palestinian Arab alliance, which definitely strengthens the position of Zionism.

In the long protracted resistance the Palestinian people are waging to regain their homeland, many a bourgeois regime in the Arab world may betray them. But, that would never reduce an iota of their determination to fight to the last.

EPRP firmly believes that the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people would finally defeat the Zionists, imperialists and other traitors.

NICARAGUAN WORKERS ON GENERAL STRIKE

Nicaraguan workers have been reported to go on a general strike since Monday, January 22, 1978. It is well known that the people of Nicaragua and the revolutionary and democratic forces in particular are waging both political and armed struggle against the Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship and Yankee imperialism.

Nicaragua is one of the most backward countries in the world. The broad masses of Nicaragua are subjected to imperialist and local bourgeois exploitation. Receiving extremely low wages, the

workers of Nicaragua are leading a miserable life. Added to this is the political repression unleashed by the US-puppet dictatorship that ruled the country. Deprived of the minimum political and human rights the people of Nicaragua are expected to live in silence.

Democratic and revolutionary forces have, however, broken this silence. Revolutionaries have gone to the mountains taking up arms while democratic forces are struggling to win political rights. It is to be recalled that the revolutionary forces once occupied a town and intensified their armed struggle. The present general strike in opposition to the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza is a prelude to the beginning of a mass-based revolutionary movement. The struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the Somoza dictatorship and US imperialism is part of the world proletarian revolution that deserves the support of the world revolutionary forces.

TUNISIAN WORKERS LAUNCHED STRIKE

The Tunisian workers' strike that ushered a new era in the development of the Tunisian workers' movement began last autumn when the workers put forward their demands for higher wages. Two weeks ago, the heroic Tunisian working class supported by the gallant Tunisian students and youth stormed the capital, Tunis, and launched strikes in other cities like Sousse, Gabes, Sfax and Kairouan. In a direct challenge to the imperialist-servant regime Bourgiba, the gallant Tunisian proletariat went out in a class war.

In a desperate move, which is the rule of any bourgeois regime during a fierce clash between labour and capital, the Tunisian neo-colonial regime opened fire at a crowd of demonstrating workers and youth killing about 40 and wounding more than 100. After dispersing the huge demonst-

rations of workers and youth, the regime of Bourgiba ventured on dividing the ranks of the proletariat. Hunting down the labour union leadership and Habib Achour in particular, the regime has launched a campaign of defamation against the General Labour Union.

For the young Tunisian working class movement, the January strikes and demonstrations remain to be the inspiration for the future more conscious, more organized and Marxist-Leninist-led revolutionary movement. It also shows to the Tunisian revolutionary comrades, that any revolutionary movement, unless led by a working class party, would meet defeats and setbacks and that the formation of a working class party is urgent. The EPRP supports the heroic struggle of the Tunisian proletariat, youth and students. The EPRP expresses confidence that the Tunisian working class would be finally victorious by completing the new democratic revolution led by a Tunisian proletarian party.

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A R T I C L E S AND D O C U M E N T S

Ethiopia Shall Be Under No One's Sphere of Influence

The US president, Carter, during his recent talks with the Teheran regime's chief butcher, the shah, stated that the region known as the Horn of Africa "must be placed under a good sphere of influence!" Carter left no doubt as to whom he had in mind when he mentioned about "good sphere of influence!" He has stated that he meant no other than Iran and Saudi Arabia, two of its loyal watchdogs in the Horn, Red Sea and Arabian Gulf region.

The shah of Iran is fit for such counter-

revolutionary adventure. It is known that he had dispatched his troops to Oman so as to fight the PFLQ, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, and to maintain the reactionary Quabous regime in power. At home, i.e. in Iran, the shah carries out an uninterrupted bloody carnage, as he slaughters revolutionaries, democrats and communists. He has amassed a huge arsenal of all types of weapons produced by the imperialist world and does not hesitate to use it to crush popular movements as events in Iran itself and in Oman have shown. In short, the rabidly anti-communist and anti-people regime of the shah is a candidate fit for the American imperialist plan (which is being pushed by Carter's national security advisor) of using reactionary states like Iran and Saudi Arabia to do the gendarme job for imperialism at the regional levels.

The reactionary shah's meddling in the Horn of Africa and his threat that he will involve Iran even further in the future is an indication of the counter-revolutionary and reactionary plots being hatched in the area by both US imperialism and Russian social-imperialism. Attaching themselves to one regime or another, fanning war amidst the oppressed, backing narrow nationalism and chauvinism, both the US and Russia are feverishly working to stifle the genuinely revolutionary movement of the oppressed masses and to gain hegemonist control over the area.

The Ethiopian people have a long and heroic tradition of anti-imperialist struggle which the US imperialists should very well know by now. The Russian social-imperialists who back the fascist junta have also come to know that the Ethiopian masses will not be duped by revisionism and that they are fiercely determined to master their own destiny. The shah, who is clamouring to embark on yet another adventure should very well know beforehand that the Ethiopian masses led by EPRP will crush any Iranian attempt to

sabotage the Ethiopian revolution.

The oppressed peoples of the whole region will surely defeat the counter-revolutionary forces of all sorts and their imperialist and social-imperialist masters.

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Dayan's "Slip of the Tongue" Exposes the
Fascists and Social-Imperialists

(A reprint from News Release No. 2, 7-2-'78)

In an interview given on Feb. 6, 1978 in Zurich, one of the chief protagonists of zionism, Moshe Dayan, openly declared that the Tel-Aviv regime has been and is still giving arms to the fascist regime in Ethiopia. Dayan's statement confirms what EPRP has been saying throughout about the relations between Tel-Aviv and the Derg. It further confirms the hypocrisy and double-dealing of the Derg, Social-imperialist Russia and its stooges in Eastern Europe and all those 'radical', 'anti-Sadat's peace effort'-Arab regimes in Tripoli, Aden and Algiers.

Since Sadat made a belly-crawling capitulation to the zionists last December, a group of Arab states, which are opposed to his "peace initiatives" (read capitulation) on the ground that Sadat had betrayed the cause of the Palestinian and Arab people, have already held two conferences in Tripoli and Algiers so far. At the same time, three of these "radical" Arab states namely South Yemen, Libya and Algeria, under the guidance of their masters in the Kremlin gave all out political and military support to the fascist regime in Addis Abeba, whose 'solomonic' connections with Tel Aviv are strong. But, they were saying that they did not know or were never sure if the fascists in Addis Abeba did have active relations with zionist Israel. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine also "did not know" that

Mengistu received active military support from zionism. What they knew was "a sort of socialism" approved by "uncle Brezhnev" was going on in Ethiopia which is "really anti-imperialist and anti-zionist". With the advise of Shylock Brezhnev, who once advised the Arab states to go on oil embargo against the west (which collaborated with the zionists) after the 1973 war while he himself supplied the oil market of the west with Russian oil, the regime in Addis Abeba literally lied to the Arab countries that it did not have active relations with zionism. In fact, it pushed Mengistu to take advantage of the contradiction among the Arab states that arose as a result of Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Thus, the Addis Abeba regime, which has not yet forgotten Haile Selassie's fairy tale about being "descendants of King Solomon", wore a mask that made it appear as "champion" of the liberation of Palestine allowed the PLO to open an office in Addis Abeba. The Russian social-imperialists consistently lied to their stooges that the regime in Addis Abeba is "anti-zionist", while they knew very well that it is not, can't be and that it still received/receives arms from the zionists.

All these lies were shattered as Dayan went out to declare that Tel-Aviv has been, is and will be arming the regime in Addis Abeba for "its relation with Ethiopia is important for Israel." The "radical" Arab regimes in South Yemen, Libya and Algeria that went out to condemn Sadat's visit to Jerusalem with their sleeves rolled up must find some crack to hide and roll down their sleeves. Just yesterday, they concluded their conference in Algeria with the anti-Sadat rhetorics, because Sadat capitulated to zionism. What about their collaboration with the fascist regime in Addis Abeba which actually receives arms from Tel-Aviv?

It is well known that the heroic peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea and their legitimate van-

guard organizations have been and are still staunch enemies of zionism and staunch supporters of the cause of the Palestinian people. EPRP, the vanguard party of the proletariat, has had a long-standing firm anti-zionist tradition. EPRP was ready on more than one occasion to send its best internationalist fighters to fight along side their Palestinian brothers during the Lebanese civil war. EPRP's commitment to the liberation of Palestine is unflinching.

But, what does the South-Yemeni regime do in Ethiopia? It is collaborating with the pro-zionist regime to suppress the Ethiopian revolution led by the genuinely and staunchly anti-zionist EPRP. They are also doing the same thing against the Eritrean fighters who are also the long standing friends of the Palestinian people.

Obviously, Dayan's open admission, for whatever objective it may be, would clarify to the people of Palestine and the Arab people as to what kind of regime is there in Addis Abeba, which is supported by Russian social-imperialism, and the "radical" Arab regimes in Aden, Tripoli and Algiers. Shylock Brezhnev, the master of these "radicals", on the other hand, with his profiteering motto "my pond of flesh only" definitely enjoys the arms market that he won in the Horn of Africa.

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The Masses of Mercato

Mercato, the new market area of Addis Abeba, is a very large area in which about 300,000 people live. Mercato has become at present a symbol of popular resistance and victory over the fascist thugs and revisionists of all hues.

The oppressed masses living in this vast sprawling area has shown time and again that they stand solidly united behind EPRP. Organized in various

popular committees (district, women, youth, workers', parents' committees) and self-defence units the people have made the area virtually free from fascist control. The fascist laws (curfew, prohibition of the sale of beer during day time, etc...) are not observed. The various streets are patrolled by the popular self-defence units. The fascist thugs parade only on the main roads and do not venture into Mercato unless they come in their hundreds accompanied by armored cars and tanks. Even then, they have met stiff resistance as it was evidenced last October when the fascists tried (and failed) to carry out a house-to-house search in Mercato. The moment the fascist thugs appear in force (be it by day or at night) the popular guards take up positions and blow on their trumpets as a signal for the people in the area to be prepared. In the Mercato, popular political meetings and the like take place. The example of Mercato is being carried out in several areas in Addis Abeba, Adama, etc... The beleaguered junta continues to vow that "Mercato will be tamed" by what it calls "red terror". However, the masses organized by the EPRP are ready to frustrate all the fascist designs.

The example of Mercato is one more testimony of the fact that the oppressed masses, who are actually participating in the various forms of struggle, stand solidly on the side of EPRP, and support wholeheartedly its political line and methods of implementing this line.

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E R R A T A

ABYOT Vol.2, No.7 Page 23, the last line should read: It is not surprising if reactionaries take such democratic rectification movements as a sign of weakness or division while it actually is a sign of strength and revolutionary maturity.