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Ethiopian Student Union In North America

(member of W.W.F.E.S.)

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FIRMLY OPPOSE THE TREACHEROUS "ETHIOPIAN-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION"

The head of Ethiopia's military regime has just concluded a twenty year deal with the Kremlin that subjects the Ethiopian people to the dictate and domination of Soviet-Social Imperialism. Such a treacherous deal of national betrayal has further opened the way for Soviet Social Imperialist enslavement and exploitation.

The Ethiopian peoples have a bitter experience of various treaties with imperialists that have subjected them to the latter's flagrant interference and domination. It will suffice to cite a few of such treaties in the recent history of Ethiopia. During the reign of Menelik the Italian Imperialists managed to conclude the treaty of Uccialli in 1889 that served their imperialist design to annex Ethiopia. (It is good to note that contrary to the Amharic version, the Italian version of the treaty contained an article which considered Ethiopia as a protectorate of Italy). Though Ethiopia officially abrogated the treaty in 1893, refusing to accept the Italian version of the treaty, Italy which at that time had a foothold in Eritrea launched an aggressive war in 1896 to swallow the whole of Ethiopia. Yet, the Ethiopian peoples repulsed the Italian aggression and gave a telling blow to the Italian colonialists at the battle of Adowa. Again in 1928 Ethiopia signed a treaty of "friendship" with Italy which stipulated to settle differences and conflicts through peaceful means. Not reconciled to its defeat in 1896, fascist Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 to realize its dream of colonizing Ethiopia. True to their heroic traditions, the Ethiopian peoples waged a resistance war for five years which culminated in the eventual defeat of fascist Italy.

After the Second World War, when U.S. Imperialism became the gendarme of the world, Haile Selassie signed a mutual defence pact with the U.S. in 1953 and various agreements of "cooperation" in subsequent years that opened the door to U.S. enslavement and domination of Ethiopia. These deals of national betrayal were also firmly opposed without letup by the peoples of Ethiopia. This anti-imperialist struggle of the Ethiopian peoples, which assumed greater dimension during the February Upsurge, eventually undermined the domination of U.S. Imperialism and resulted in the ouster of military advisors, personnel and the closure of U.S. facilities in Ethiopia.

Hence, a brief look at the recent history of Ethiopia clearly shows that unequal treaties with Imperialist powers opened the door for the gross interference, domination and enslavement of Ethiopia. Moreover, such treaties of national betrayal have been firmly resisted by the freedom loving people of Ethiopia who have untiringly fought to shake-off such enslavement and domination by Imperialist powers.

Yet, the counter-revolutionary military regime that never learns from history signed on November 20th, 1978 the treacherous "Ethiopian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty" that subjects the Ethiopian people to the further domination by Soviet Social Imperialism.

Let us look at some of the articles in this infamous treaty and see what is in store for the Ethiopian peoples. Article 10 states, "in the interests of ensuring the defence capability of the high contracting parties they shall continue to cooperate in the military field." What does this mean? It is a clear declaration for the continued presence of thousands of Soviet military advisors, of more than 17,000 Cuban mercenaries, over a thousand East German military personnel and even a further increase of troops if the situation demands it. Cooperation in the military field, as has been seen in practice, is the stationing of troops, the flooding of the country with weapons of mass-slaughter, the training of troops and security forces and the participation of Soviet and Cuban high ranking officers in the highest military command committees to map out strategies for various war campaigns. Moreover, as testified by present

realities in Ethiopia, military cooperation means the participation of Soviet officers and Cuban mercenary troops in logistics, manning sophisticated weapons in the war of extermination launched on oppressed nationalities especially those in Eritrea. All this is done in the name of ensuring Ethiopia's defence capability and military cooperation. With such an agreement in force, the Soviet Social Imperialists are in a position of total control of military operations in Ethiopia.

Article 11 states, "each of the high contracting parties declares that it shall not enter into any alliance or participate in any alignment of states or in actions or measures directed against the other high contracting party." What does this mean? In the present world situation where the two superpowers are locked in a fierce struggle which will some day lead to war, it can only mean that Ethiopia should not align herself with other states or take actions or measures that opposes the war preparation of the two superpowers and in particular that of the Soviet Union. Isn't this part of the manouever on the side of the Kremlin Tsars to dictate Ethiopia not to unite with oppressed, freedom and peace-loving peoples and nations of the world against the main enemies of the world peoples the two superpowers and in particular against Soviet Social Imperialism. Isn't this a solemn pledge from Mengistu to Brezhnev and Co. that Ethiopia will not unite and cooperate with other oppressed, freedom and peace-loving peoples and nations to oppose the hegemonism, interference, aggression and bullying of Soviet Social Imperialism throughout the world. Such is the treacherous agreement that Mengistu signed in the name of friendship and cooperation; a deal that endorses the global strategy of this predatory superpower.

Furthermore, the agreement stipulates that Ethiopia can not "enter into any international agreements incompatible with this treaty". Such a treaty that bars Ethiopia from making any agreements with other nations that will affect the global or regional designs of this Superpower is a typical imperialist deal that dictates the foreign policy of a sovereign state. This is what the "Ethiopian-Soviet friendship treaty" has in store for Ethiopia. This is what the revisionist circles in various countries and the

junta propagandists have hailed as a treaty that is "in the interests of the Ethiopian and Soviet peoples", "as an effort of cooperation between states to safeguard international peace and the security of peoples" etc.

We say it is a deal of national betrayal. It is a deal that ensures Soviet Social-Imperialist domination in Ethiopia. It is a deal that endorses and facilitates the imperialist designs of the Kremlin tsars throughout the world and in the Horn of Africa in particular. It is a treacherous deal that facilitates the war preparation of the Soviet Union and a guarantee for Ethiopia's continued support to the Soviet Union in case of an outbreak of world war.

The consequence of such a treaty which strengthens alliance with Moscow is fraught with great dangers for the Ethiopian peoples and that of the region. Looking back at the close alliance of Haile Selassie's regime with U.S. Imperialism and its subsequent consequences we find among other things the following. On major international issues U.S. dictated the foreign policy of Ethiopia even to the extent of using Ethiopian military forces to engage in its regional wars such as Korea and the Congo. U.S. Imperialism had unrestricted rights to use Ethiopian airfields, sea-ports, air-space and other facilities, as well as, the Kagnev military communication base to pursue its aggressive designs in Africa and the Middle-East. From these the Ethiopian peoples have drawn valuable lessons on what treacherous deals with Imperialism entails and have fought to free themselves from imperialist domination.

Looking at the present, especially the close alliance of the military regime with the Soviet Union, we can say the following. If tomorrow the Kremlin deems it necessary to engage Ethiopian troops in wars which it instigates, the military regime has shown its readiness to make the peoples of Ethiopia shed their blood for the Soviet Social-Imperialists. Moreover, requests by the Soviet Union for establishing military bases of some sort or weapon storage facilities etc. in the name of "ensuring the defence capabilities of both parties" and "military cooperation" in its preparation for war will not be far off. Such is the direction in which this infamous

deal signed by Mengistu is undoubtedly leading the country to.

Other sections of the treaty dealing with "the development and deepening of unbreakable relations in the political, economic trade fields", "the parties shall expand all-round cooperation between them on the basis of the principle of equality, mutual benefit and most favoured nation treatment" etc. are designed for the further exploitation of the peoples of Ethiopia and the plunder of our national resources by Soviet Social Imperialism.

In short, such a treacherous treaty is undoubtedly not in the interest of the Ethiopian people and that of the region. Hence, as in the past the Ethiopian peoples will not accept such a treacherous deal. The Ethiopian Students Union in North America also vehemently condemns this treaty of national betrayal and will continue, alongside the peoples of Ethiopia, to expose and struggle against the counter-revolutionary military regime and Soviet Social Imperialism.

ESUNA is confident that the anti-imperialist struggle of the Ethiopian peoples will eventually shake off such treacherous and unequal treaties. Though the struggle against the military regime and Soviet Social-Imperialism is not easy and smooth sailing, it is our firm belief that, given Ethiopian revolutionaries sum-up past struggles of the Ethiopian people in accordance with Marxism-Leninism Mao Tse-Tung Thought and develop a correct line to lead the struggle, the peoples of Ethiopia will be able to surmount all difficulties and realize the birth of peoples' democratic Ethiopia.

C.C. OF ESUNA