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FORWARD!

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HAIL THE FORMATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH LEAGUE

The Ethiopian New Democratic Revolution continues to advance despite (and may we say because of) the all-out and all-round fascist reign of terror being unleashed by the Mengistu-led military dictatorship and the social-fascist goons gathered around that ill-famous political swindler and agent of modern-day revisionism, Haile Fidda.

And at the peak of the ever-escalated white terror comes the brilliant declaration of the formation of the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Youth League (EPRYL) which, after having been operating in clandestinity through its organ, The Revolutionary Youth, for the last two years, held its Congress last month right at the center of reaction, "right on the enemy's nose", as the statement of declaration puts it. It came out declaring that the EPRYL is "the youth league of the EPRP, which has taken up the ideological, political and organizational lines of the EPRP as well as its minimum and maximum programs; that it will, by creatively applying revolutionary Marxist-Leninist theory to the concrete conditions of the Ethiopian revolution and using it in its revolutionary practice, serve as a school for revolutionary struggle in order to enhance the full participation of the youth in the Ethiopian new democratic and socialist revolutions;" etc.

This is an excellent development! The spirit of warm love for the party of the Ethiopian proletariat, the EPRP, and the bitter hatred for the enemies of the Ethiopian peoples that has characterized over 90% of the Ethiopian youth for long has now taken an organizational form in the EPRYL. This also very well explains the frenzied propaganda of the state, which at times yelled that "the majority of the Ethiopian youth has turned to be fascist and anarchist", and the blind and indiscriminate repression unleashed on the youth since last September. But to be attacked by the enemy is, as Chairman Mao put it, not a bad thing. "It is still better if the enemy attacks us wildly and paints us as utterly black and without a single virtue; it demonstrates that we have not only drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves but achieved a great deal in our work." This is precisely the case with the Ethiopian youth!

WWFES hails the formation of EPRYL and takes revolutionary pride in this achievement of the Ethiopian revolutionary youth. It is our belief that the EPRYL will, under the guidance of the Marxist-Leninist bright red banner of the EPRP, firmly adhere to the integration of revolutionary education and revolutionary practice, mobilize the broad masses of youth to play an increasingly revolutionary role, combat all brands of revisionism, and succeed to be the revolutionary heirs of the new democratic and socialist revolutions. The future belongs to our ever revolutionary youth!

LONG LIVE THE EPRYL!

LONG LIVE THE EPRP AND ITS ARMED WING, THE EPRA!

MENGISTU'S FASCIST DICTATORSHIP ESCALATES BLOODBATH

In the past two months since Mengistu assumed the more-or-less expected power within the military dictatorship after chopping off a few of his once-trusted accomplices' heads in a carefully planned and executed mopping-up operation against them, Ethiopia is experiencing a heretofore unprecedented bloodbath, all directed against the EPRP and organizations and individuals that are directly or indirectly affiliated to it or sympathize with the revolutionary cause that it symbolizes -- i.e. organizations of and/or individual workers, peasants, students, teachers, and other oppressed strata of Ethiopian society. Both the usurption of power by Mengistu and the immediate escalation of the reign of terror are, of course, a clear illustration of the desperation and frenziedness that the fast developing revolutionary-tide, inspired and engineered by the revolutionary leadership of the EPRP, has created in the enemies of the Ethiopian peoples. And as such these acts of desperation, however fascistic and bloody they might look in the short-run, are only dying kicks!

Below are a few examples of the nature of the white terror that has been escalated in the past month alone, all of which were reported in a March 16, 1977 press release by the EPRP. For further details as to the nature of terror being perpetrated by the fascist dictatorship, this month's report by the Amnesty International, excerpts of which appear in this issue, might be of some help.

1. 44 suspected members or sympathizers of the EPRP secretly executed

On February 26, 44 of the 470 political prisoners held at the Special Security Police Station were secretly executed in the most inhuman manner that probably has no parallels in recent human history. After having been driven out of the city, in the process of which the prisoners made last-minute attempts to save their lives by jumping out of the trucks, all except the 45th who managed to escape and tell the story, were massacred. A tractor, which has been waiting in the area selected for the execution, ploughed the area and buried the bodies in such a way that the bodies could not be discovered. A listing of the names of these martyrs is given in the press release referred to above.

2. 25 workers of the Addis Ababa Cement Factory executed

On the pretext of the assassination of the Union leader of the Addis Ababa Cement Factory, which in fact was carried out by Mengistu's assassin squads themselves, 25 workers were rounded up on February 25 and secretly executed the next day. This fascist tactic of accusing the opposition for acts that they themselves carried out to find pretexts for carrying even greater fascistic deeds is increasingly being

made use of by Mengistu and his close associates, principally the social fascist clique led by Haile Fidda.

3. Campaign against the youth intensified

It is not unusual these days to find well-trained and armed agent provocateurs in schools who have been empowered to open fire and execute any one at will. After having failed to gain the slightest support within the youth and student population, Mengistu and the social fascist clique have turned the schools into battle zones. Almost all schools and institutions of higher learning are on strike and where they are reopened armed gangs aided by elements of the "flame brigade" invariably open fire at suspected sympathizers which, of course, account to over 90% of the youth and student population.

1000 WORKERS DEMONSTRATE!

A demonstration by over 1000 workers in Addis Ababa on March 25 angrily demanded immediate execution of four agents of Mengistu and the social fascists who massacred 9 printing workers for being anti-government! The four were members of the so-called "Kebele committee".

INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED

March 8 is International Working Women's Day. It is on this day that revolutionary and democratic forces all around the world commemorate the long and heroic struggle for the liberation of oppressed and exploited women that has been waged heretofore. It is a day for expressing militant solidarity with the struggle for women's emancipation. It is also, at one and the same time, a day for continuing the struggle in all its aspects -- ideologically, politically, and organizationally; a day for asserting and reasserting the scientific truth that the emancipation of women is a question of the emancipation of society as a whole; that it is a question closely connected with the new democratic and socialist revolutions in each and every country of the world.

Imperialists of all hues and colours, revisionists, and other forces of reaction either suppress the recognition of this day as a day of commemoration of the genuine and militant history of women's revolutionary struggle for liberation or try to obliterate its revolutionary direction by ceaselessly distorting the origin of women's oppression and by prescribing bourgeois and revisionist solutions. Like in all other questions of revolution, therefore, there are two basic class viewpoints, two political lines, and thus two strategies for the liberation of women: one proletarian, hence revolutionary; another bourgeois (and revisionist) and hence reactionary.

The statement reprinted below was issued by the World-Wide Ethiopian Women Study Group to commemorate the occasion this year. It briefly summarizes the historic origin and significance of the International Working Women's Day as well as the history, role and current status of the revolutionary struggle of Ethiopian women. Subheads are ours.

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Historical Origin

March 8th is at one and the same time a working class holiday as well as a day of struggle to all those patriots internationally who fight for the genuine emancipation of women. It is a working class holiday for it was on March 8th, 1857 that American working women of the needle trades protested the inhuman working condition that was their lot. These angry women marched from the streets of New York's Lower East Side toward the wealthy neighborhood courageously taking up the struggle of their class. Ever since, March 8 has become a day of struggle for double-oppressed women against their class exploiters and for equal rights. On March 8, 1908, women garment workers in the U. S. marched for an eight-hour day, the end to child labour and the right to vote. In 1910, through the active initiation of the German communist leader Clara Zetkin, the International Socialist Women's Congress which met in Copenhagen declared March 8 as the International Working Women's Day. The historic March 8, 1917

celebration of this day in Russia, which was spearheaded by the strike of more than 90,000 women textile workers, played a significant role in the Russian Revolution. Thus, historically, March 8th has been a day of wielding world-wide working class unity against imperialism.

Two Diametrically Opposed Lines

But in recent years, when it has become fashionable for the bourgeoisie to talk of women's rights, "the woman's issue," "Woman's Day," "woman's year", etc., we find that the significance of International Women's Day varies from one perspective to another. As has been witnessed at the United Nations World Conference of International Women's Year, held in Mexico only two years ago, we can see that the road to woman's emancipation has long been split into two contending philosophies, two class viewpoints and hence two strategies.

Therefore, International Working Women's Day is a day for waging fierce struggle against bourgeois feminists whose main aim lies not in overall societal transformation and development, but in increased participation for women within the existing exploitative capitalist/semi-feudal, semi-colonial framework. This does not surprise us. Bourgeois feminism stems from the class position of its leaders and is hence opposed to the raising of social problems aside from the women question. We vehemently oppose such an isolating perspective. To merely delcare the existence of a contradiction between male and female and the need to fight it is an illusory, absurd and false prescription. It is most crucial to examine the way this contradiction operates within any given specific society and the historical conditions surrounding it. Nothing but a clear analysis tracing the inter-relationship of women's oppression to that of the development of class society and a revolutionary action based upon this analysis could guarantee a meaningful change in the conditions of oppressed women.

The emancipation of women is a question of the emancipation of society as a whole. This simple truth is today as clear as daylight to the heroic women of China, Albania, Vietnam, etc., who have vigilantly stood up side by side with their male class comrades for independence and freedom not only from foreign aggression and internal class enemies, but also from centuries-old traditions based on male supremacy. Their victories have set shining examples to women all over the world in that they reveal that woman's fate is invariably linked to that of the whole nation and people.

Revolutionary Struggle of Ethiopian Women

It is in this spirit and in the best of revolutionary traditions that double-oppressed Ethiopian women, despite the military junta's attempts to distort and obliterate their struggle, have risen up to annihilate the very foundations of semi-feudal and semi-colonial Ethiopia. Their present life-and-death struggle against the fascist junta clearly shows that they have wielded unbreakable unity



with the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist and anti-bureaucrat capitalist struggle of the masses which is being waged under the brilliant leadership of the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party.

The struggle of the broad masses has now reached the stage of organized armed struggle. Under the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Army, armed agrarian revolution is being carried out in the countryside. For each drop of blood shed by the revolutionary forces, the protracted struggle is dealing a double blow to the blood-thirsty fascists in the cities. In an all-out campaign against the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party, the junta has, especially in the past two months, heightened its two and half-year-old reign of terror. But, like all decaying forces, it has only succeeded in isolating itself completely, while the EPRP is winning wide support amongst the masses.

It was exactly a year ago on March 8, 1976 that oppressed Ethiopian women celebrated this international holiday by storming through the streets of Addis Ababa carrying the slogans "Only EPRP can bring the struggle of oppressed women under its leadership," "Provisional Popular Government now!", etc. Before an audience of 50,000, the representative of the Ethiopian Women Coordinating Committee in a fiery speech condemned the junta's fascism, as a consequence of which she was led to prison.

The Ethiopian Women Coordinating Committee during its short-lived period of legal struggle organized and politicized women in the factories, schools, etc. in their hundreds. Throughout its existence, the junta had constantly sought to dominate the Committee organizationally and politically. Nevertheless, fierce struggle had been carried out between revisionist women who wished it to remain a puppet organization furthering no other than the reactionary ideology of bourgeois feminism, and the mass membership which wanted total independence from the junta's supervision. Although the fascist junta has now closed its office and imprisoned its leaders, the struggle of Ethiopian women has not ended there.

At present, there exist more than 100 women's associations and study circles through out the country. In its statement of May 11, 1976 on "the urgent organization of oppressed women", the Coordinating Committee called for the unification of these associations under one organization of oppressed women. It also condemned the Junta's plan to "replace the Women's Coordinating Committee by a handful of unrepresentative women in an anti-democratic and anti-people manner" and for "denying the right of oppressed women to organize independently and (imposing) government supervision in the guise of the (revisionist) Organizing Office."



MARTHA MEBRAHTU

A militant member of the University Students Union of Addis Ababa (USUAA) massacred by the Haile Selassie feudo-bourgeois regime on December 8, 1972.

EWO Picks up the Red Banner

Under such conditions, the underground Ethiopian Women's Organization has emerged to carry out the task of organizing and politicizing oppressed women. Through its organ "Double Fighter" (Dereb Tagaywa), it has been consistently exposing the anti-democratic and fascist nature of the Junta. It has been doing tremendous agitational work in pointing out the need for oppressed women to unite on an anti-feudal, anti-imperialist, anti-bureaucrat capitalist platform. "Double Fighter" has been expressing the interests of the working and peasant women, oppressed housewives, maids and prostitutes revealing how each section is being affected under the fascist rule of the Junta, with the day to day concrete reality as its basis. In its most recent issue of "Double Fighter", the Ethiopian Women's Organization has raised the most burning issue of the time -- that of linking the women's struggle to the armed struggle being waged under EPRP's leadership. It writes:

The struggle of the oppressed Ethiopian masses has reached this higher stage. The struggle of oppressed Ethiopian women, being part and parcel of the struggle of the oppressed Ethiopian masses has also reached a new stage. The oppressed have a means of struggle tested through history, one which is just, unflinching and sure to break not only the spirit of the enemy, but also its very backbone -- armed struggle! Courageous Ethiopian women! We must ask ourselves how its victory could guarantee our own emancipation! ... Our conscious participation in it will doubly facilitate the struggle! Let us organize and again organize ... those in the communities and those in the districts. Let us expose the fascists and their

puppets; let us break their spirits! Let us resist the counter-revolutionaries side by side with our children, our brothers, and our sisters. We shall annihilate the fascists and their puppets with these double arms of struggle which have been created by double oppression.

To this fiery call, we shall only add:

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKING
WOMEN'S DAY!
LONG LIVE THE SOLIDARITY AND UNITY
OF OPPRESSED WOMEN AND ALL
OPPRESSED PEOPLE ALL OVER
THE WORLD!



It has been observed in the experience of all liberation movements that the success of a revolution depends on the extent to which women take part in it.

Lenin

International Women's Day must become a means for turning worker and peasant women from a reserve of the working class into an active army in the liberation movement of the proletariat.

Stalin.

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Excerpts from EPRP's minimum program (page 26 - 28 of its English version)

- A. To ensure equality between men and women politically, economically and socially.
- B. To oppose the confinement of women to the kitchen and to encourage them to engage in economic production; to upgrade the political, cultural and vocational positions of women; to develop the fine qualities of Ethiopian working women including their readiness to struggle for their rights and freedom, their patriotic feelings, etc.
- C. To put into practice the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women alike.
- I. To forbid by law all customs and practices that are against the interest of women; to abolish practices degrading to the women such as prostitution which is being nurtured and abetted by feudalism and imperialism; to reeducate and persuade prostitutes by providing them tangible opportunities to engage themselves in healthy and productive economic activities."

WWFES SOLIDARITY

HANDS OFF DJIBOUTI!

As the day for the independence of the French colony in the Horn of Africa, the Territory of Afars and Issas, scheduled for June 27, approaches a great deal of war mongering, diplomatic maneuvers and intrigues, and actual preparations for war, all directed not only at frustrating the aspirations of the Afar and Issa masses for genuine independence but also at arresting the raging class struggle and revolutionary movements in the region, principally that in Ethiopia.

The French colonialists have for long turned the territory into a land of terror, fear, death and suffering and are actively conspiring to retain their domination through a neo-colonial arrangement. The neighboring regimes in Ethiopia and Somalia both with ulterior reactionary motives for dominating the territory, are using devious means to divide and polarize the two nationalities -- Afars and Issas. The strategic location of the territory has made it a center of contention amidst imperialist powers of all makes which are

actively, directly and through proxies, engaged in dangerous pursuits for the control of the region.

All of these is against the just aspiration of the Djibouti masses and must be denounced and fought against. As Abyot, the information bulletin of the EPRP unequivocally put it in its August 1976 issue, "the peoples of
(cont'd on page 8)

ASSIMBA: SYMBOL OF THE PATH AND VICTORY OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION

Marxist-Leninist theory teaches and revolutionary practice in the new democratic revolution confirms that in semi-feudal, semi-colonial countries the main form of organization for revolution is the peoples army and the main form of struggle is protracted armed struggle, led and controlled by a Marxist-Leninist party. All other forms of struggle and organization are subordinate to and serve the armed struggle.

In Ethiopia, too, owing to its semi-feudal and semi-colonial character, the main form of struggle can only be the armed struggle. The armed struggle which is currently being waged by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Army (EPRA), the armed-wing of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party (EPRP) is, accordingly, a brilliant illustration of this inevitable road to the Ethiopian revolution.

Since its formation, the EPRA has been conducting armed propaganda in various provinces of Ethiopia, particularly in Tigre province while at the same time scoring decisive victories over the fascist regime's army as well as over roving bandits of the EDU which have repeatedly attempted to destroy it. Recently, the EPRA began putting out its own organ, "Assimba", which is published in Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromogna, and wollaite. The name "Assimba" is derived from a place in Tigre called Assimba where the EPRA has established its first base.

The formation of the EPRA and the launching of "Assimba" is a major breakthrough in the struggle of the Ethiopian masses against imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism, and can definitely be said that the new democratic revolution in Ethiopia has now entered its decisive and correct path. For, as Chairman Mao unequivocally pointed out, "without a peoples army the people have nothing," and "without armed struggle neither the proletariat nor the communist party would have any standing at all ... and it would be impossible for the revolution to triumph."

In semi-colonial countries like Ethiopia such an armed struggle should, if it were to be successful, take the form of a protracted peasant war under proletarian leadership and this is, in essence, an agrarian revolution of the peasantry. This has been proved both in theory and in practice through the correct and revolutionary application of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of the Chinese new democratic and socialist revolutions which in turn has laid down the general law for revolutions in semi-feudal, semi-colonial countries. This revolutionary road, which of course must be creatively applied to the concrete requirements and conditions of revolution in semi-feudal, semi-colonial countries, is the road of seizure of power by armed means, and can be accomplished by relying on the broad masses of the peasantry, by establishing rural base areas, encircling the cities from the countryside and finally seizing the cities.

This is the only road because, in such countries like Ethiopia, the key cities have long been occupied by the powerful imperialists and their reactionary local allies.

It is imperative, therefore, for revolutionary forces to turn the backward villages into advanced, consolidated base areas, into great military, political, economic and cultural bastions of the revolution. The building of revolutionary base areas is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist strategic concept developed by Chairman Mao for guiding the revolution in semi-feudal, semi-colonial countries and the only correct path to win victory. This is true even if such base areas would have to be only several small pieces of territory at the beginning, for and as long as this is persisted upon, they will gradually spread like a spark starting a prairie fire! As Chairman Mao pointed out, "Only thus can we create tremendous difficulties for the reactionary ruling classes, shake their foundations, and precipitate their internal disintegration."

This is the only revolutionary road, further, not only to be able to seize political power but also to be able to maintain it in such a revolutionary manner as would guarantee the revolution's development through to the end -- the transition to socialism and communism.

(cont'd from page 6) HANDS OFF DJIBOUTI!

Djibouti must be given the full right to determine their destiny by themselves; colonialism and its puppets must be eliminated; the future of Djibouti is something that can be decided only by the masses themselves free from outside interference.... As such, the EPRP stands opposed to all outside interference in the affairs of the Djibouti peoples."

The WWFES has also made its position clear long ago. In its Fourth Congress held in West Germany last year, it expressed its "vigorous opposition to any foreign interference in the affairs of the Djibouti masses;" denounced the Junta's "aggressive designs over the territory;" called upon the Afar and Issa masses "to unite further in a revolutionary and fraternal manner to organize themselves and resist all domination from outside."

Such is the significance and importance of building up revolutionary base areas. Such is the significance of Assimba! And this is precisely why the formation of the EPRP and its founding of its first base on Assimba has sent the enemy camp shivering and into frenzy while creating the greatest of joy and revolutionary optimism in all friends of the Ethiopian revolution. For the correctness or incorrectness of the ideological and political lines determines every thing else! For the fascist junta's foundations can be shaken and smashed only by establishing, expanding, and consolidating such revolutionary base areas, by setting up political powers, by deepening the agrarian revolution in a thorough-going way, and by spreading political power in a series of waves all over the rural areas.

And this precisely is the revolutionary road, and the inevitable victory, that Assimba symbolizes!

VICTORY TO THE EPRP!
VICTORY TO ITS PEOPLES ARMY,
THE EPRA!!
VICTORY TO THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES!

All revolutionary and democratic forces in the region must unite to firmly frustrate all reactionary designs. As the EPRP points out "the combined efforts of the revolutionary forces in the region and elsewhere is required to frustrate the imperialo-reactionary plan that will create hotbeds of war and lead to the further enslavement of the masses in the region. Such localised wars serve the merchants of arms and death -- the imperialist powers. Such wars help them to destroy revolutionary movements in the region and to divert the class struggle. The only war that the masses in the region must fight must be the class war against the local reactionaries and imperialism."

STOP ALL INTERFERENCE IN DJIBOUTI!
ALL OUTSIDE HANDS OFF DJIBOUTI!

PERUSING THROUGH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REPORT ON "HUMAN RIGHTS" IN ETHIOPIA

Forward has obtained a copy of the March, 1977 report by Amnesty International which, according to its statutes "is a world wide voluntary human rights organization which works for the release of all prisoners of conscience." It has in the past reported on "human rights violations" in Chile, Uruguay, Iran, Argentina, Philipines, etc. We reprint below excerpts from the report, not that it reveals information that the EPRP and its supporters abroad have not reported already but as just one other confirmation of what has already been known to all close followers of developments in Ethiopia.

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"Amnesty International is very concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Ethiopia. During the government of Emperor Haile Selassie Amnesty International campaigned actively against arbitrary and long-term detention without trial, the use of torture, and the conditions under which political prisoners were held. However, since the Provisional Military Administration Council (Derg) came to power by coup d'etat in 1974, there has developed a consistent pattern of widespread and gross human rights violations, especially in recent months, which Amnesty International regards as a matter for urgent international concern."

"Those who have been detained include:(7) alleged members of the EPRP, many of whom are under the age of 18 and as young as 9 or 10 years. These are currently the largest category of detainees by far;"

"Arrests take place commonly during house to house searches ... especially through neighbourhoods known as centers of EPRP activity. Many students are arrested at demonstrations, either organized by the EPRP or pro-government demonstrations at which EPRP members, or persons assisting them, hand out EPRP leaflets; there follows in such cases random shooting with beatings and arrests of hundreds of youths at a time. Others are arrested on the streets, especially groups of youths gathered together or persons fleeing in fear from the jeeps which constantly patrol towns with rifles and machine guns at the ready. Arrests are also made at the workplace, at home, at the airport in the case of several Ethiopians coming home from abroad, at road blocks outside Addis Ababa, etc.

"The number of political prisoners is not known, but it may be estimated that there are several thousand, possibly as many as 8,000."

"Those most subject to torture are alleged leaders or members of the EPRP or the secessionist movements. However, a large number of young people, particularly students, are regularly subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment carried out in ordinary prisons ... and in special 'correction camps'. Other methods of torture range from beatings to more 'sophisticated' methods of torture and degradation. They include: 1. severe beatings with rifle butts, truncheons, sticks and clubs, 2. the use of electric shocks; 3. various degrading punishments and sexual abuse; 4. the pulling out of toe and finger nails."

"...(3) Persons have been killed by the armed forces in certain political circumstances which amount to extra-judicial execution. For example, there is often shooting by soldiers during house-to-house searches for arms and illegal publications. The searches are carried out violently, and many persons are reported shot without even being asked their identity, or on an unverified suspicion of EPRP membership or sympathies, or in reprisal for the absence of the persons being searched for... there are even reports of infants being shot in a household suspected of EPRP support....Bodies are frequently seen in the streets, in the country-side...there are reliable reports of some hundreds of students shot dead...between 3 Feb. and mid-March."

member unions in action

Among the variety of activities undertaken by member unions this month include the celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of the birth of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP), the Third Anniversary of the February, 1974 revolutionary upsurge as well as the Third Anniversary of the Ethiopian Women's Day in conjunction with the International Working Women's Day.

North America

1. ESUNA and EWSGNA jointly celebrated the Fifth Anniversary of the birth of the glorious Marxist-Leninist party of the Ethiopian proletariat, the EPRP, on August 18, 1977 in the city of Boston in an atmosphere filled with the highest degree of revolutionary joy and enthusiasm. The occasion, which was used to introduce the EPRP, which together with its armed wing, the EPRA, is the inspirer, organizer, and leader of the Ethiopian masses and vanguard of the Ethiopian New Democratic Revolution, was attended by several Marxist-Leninist organizations and groups invited to express their solidarity with the Ethiopian revolution.

March 17, the Third anniversary of the Ethiopian Women's Day, marking the glorious day in 1974 when more than 3,000 women factory workers, defying the anti-demonstration laws of the feudo-bourgeois regime, marched in the capital city demanding equal pay for equal work, freedom to organize, better working conditions, etc. was also jointly celebrated.

Four speeches were made during the occasion: EWSGNA on "the role of the Ethiopian women in the new democratic revolution," ESUNA on "the Present Situation in Ethiopia," the Communist Party of Canada (M-L) on "Peoples' War and Imperialism," and a ZANU representative on "the role of the Zimbabwean Women in the Chimurenga". A variety of slide shows, skits, songs and poems were also presented by various chapters of ESUNA and EWSGNA.

2. The mid-year congress of EWSGNA was held in Boston from March 17-19, 1977. The topics discussed included the present situation in Ethiopia and the role of women in Peoples' War.

3. The mid-year congress of ESUNA chapters in the eastern region of North America was also held from March 18-19 in Boston. Topics discussed

in this congress were the Ethiopian New Democratic Revolution, Armed Struggle, Peoples' War and the EPRA.

Europe

1. The Ethiopian Women Study Group in Europe celebrated the Third Anniversary of the Ethiopian Women's Day. It also issued a special publication on "The Ethiopian Woman in the February Revolution" for the occasion.

2. ESUE's branch union in Sweden held an in-door rally and a fund-raising dinner on March 4. Several progressive organizations attended and read solidarity messages on the occasion. Among them were fraternal organizations from countries like Iran, Chile, Thailand, Uganda, and Gambia.

3. A similar in-door rally and fund-raising dinner was also held in Amsterdam, Holland, on March 11. Fraternal organizations from Ireland, Palestine, Iran, Surinam, Bolivia, Chile, and Angola participated and read solidarity messages. Some of these presented revolutionary songs and skits.

4. Similar undertakings are planned by the Ethiopian Students Union in France (for March 23) and by the Ethiopian Students Union in Greece.

Sudan

The Ethiopian Students Union in the Sudan, Member of RUESMENA, participated in an exhibition organized by at the University of Khartoum and visited by thousands of visitors. The Union distributed several publications of its own, those of the EPRP, WWFES and others from Ethiopia and intensively popularized the real situation in Ethiopia.

FROM THE PAGES OF REVOLUTIONARY CLANDESTINE PAPERS IN ETHIOPIA

The total suspension of all democratic rights characterized by the reign of fascistic terror unleashed on the Ethiopian masses has forced all political mass organizations into the underground. Propaganda literature distributed by these organizations is numerous. Many have papers published on a regular basis, written in different languages spoken in Ethiopia. All of them unmistakably illustrate a singularity of purpose ... one of revolutionary iron-opposition to the fascist regime. In order to introduce a few of these to our foreign readers, and as just one other indication of the depth and mass-based nature of the revolutionary struggle in Ethiopia, we present below a partial list together with randomly selected quotations from each. All the translations are ours and take full responsibility in any mis-interpretations that may be caused in the process.

1. The Revolutionary Youth (Abyotawee Wotat) -- Organ of the Ethiopian Peoples's Revolutionary Youth League, the youth league of the EPRP.

"The EPRYL, rallying under the banner of the EPRP, considers the smashing of the reactionary violence of the fascists with revolutionary violence as the principal objective. To work to alleviate the economic problems of the masses is another priority. To accomplish these tasks of great urgency, all the revolutionary youth must be mobilized and well prepared."

2. Voice of the Revolutionary Workers Union of Ethiopia (Ye-ileama Dimtz) Organ of the clandestine workers organization established to pursue the work of CELU (Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions) after the latter was closed down by the fascist junta.

"ERWU calls upon all workers to (1) oppose and consistently expose the fascist dictatorship of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam and the social fascists; (2) to put the Neighbourhood "militia" under the people's control; (3) to take decisive revolutionary measures against anti-people agents; (4) and deepen the struggle for the reinstatement of CELU and to oppose the formation of the anti-worker, pro-fascist puppet organization, "the All-Ethiopian Trade Unions". (Vol. I, No. 10)

3. Double Fighter (Dirib Tagaywa) -- Organ of the Ethiopian Women Organization "...Our conscious participation in the struggle will double the strength of the revolutionary forces. Let us get organized and organize others in every neighbourhood to oppose and expose fascists and social fascists. Let us rally with the revolutionary forces and frustrate fascism...." (Vol.I,#7)
4. The Oppressed Soldier -- organ of a clandestine organization of rank and file members of the Ethiopian Armed Forces.

"It won't be too long before revolutionary justice is passed on the sworn enemy of the Ethiopian peoples, Colonel Mengistu. To hasten that day: (1) Let us rally around the Oppressed Soldier; let us not serve as instruments of fascism; (2) Let us prove our support to the revolution in practice by particularly dissociating ourselves from fascist and mercenary squad, Nebelbal (Flame Brigade); (3) Let us closely unite with the revolutionary workers and youth and carry out an anti-fascist and anti-social fascist struggle....." (Special issue, February, 1977)

Voice of Teachers, organ of the Ethiopian Teachers Association, Victory through Struggle and the Revolutionary Student (Tagaye Temari), publications by underground student organizations, Forward (wedefit), a community organizer in Addis Ababa, etc. will be introduced in subsequent issues of Forward.

The Struggle-- in Poems

The EPRP at the Helm

The serfs labor
but
the lords exploit
The slaves plough
but
the tyrants reap
The workers produce
but
the capitalists profit
The humble folks sacrifice
but
the patricians benefit

In revolt against this injustice
In February '74 the people stood up
and took their fate in their own hands
United to a man they rose up
To storm heaven and earth
with cries of justice
To do away with all pests!

And with the EPRP at the helm
-- with the EPRA as the arm
Indeed the finest hour has come
for the people to be proud and proclaim -
-- away with the system of oppression
and exploitation
Away with feudalism, imperialism and
fascism!!

Member Unions of WWFES:

Ethiopian Students Union in Europe
(ESUE)
Regional Union of Ethiopian Students
in the Middle-east & N. Africa
(RUESMENA)
Ethiopian Students Union in East
Africa (ESUEA)
Ethiopian Students Union in North
America (ESUNA)
World-Wide Ethiopian Women Study
Group (WWEWSG)

ALL INQUIRIES, COMMENTS AND/OR
SUGGESTIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

FORWARD!

P. O. Box 5372

Madison, WI 53705

U. S. A.

In the Rise and Fall of the High Seas

In the rise and fall of the high seas
Torrential storms shake the waves
Turbulence erupts in the universe
Ethiopia shall rise on new foundations!

In the heavens the radiant stars glow
A new high looms on the horizon
The people sing for protracted armed
revolution
To defeat fascistic counter-revolution.

Ethiopian shores dazzle with red
flowers

Green with human forests,
red with the EPRP
The masses are aroused and moved
to action

With the EPRP, the people at one,
victory is certain!

With the EPRP at the head
the people united
Victory is certain!!

ABOUT THOSE

LITTLE FACTS:

The handful of social-facist clique which, after having been ignominously expelled from ESUE in August, 1975, managed to put its members in the payrolls of the junta's embassies in certain European countries has recently been located in Sweden carrying out its usual dirty agent provocateur work. Led by a certain maggott called Makonnen Getu, whose skills in feudal intrigues and ability to compose lies and fascist propaganda (as a good disciple of his ill-famous teacher, Haile Fidda) has earned him a handful of followers, this clique tried to stage a pro-junta demonstration in Sweden on March 26 in open cooperation with the junta's embassy there.

The long-planned and organized show-down ended in fiasco: not only that not a single organization or group showed up but its own paid members and sympathizers boycotted it! All counted 13 people turned out! Well, the junta and the Haile Fidda clique better have this many paid agents!