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Editorial

Facing such ferocious, powerful and multiple enemies, the Ethiopian revolution will be and cannot but be very complex, protracted and tortuous, with many twists and turns. (Resolution of the 25th Congress of ESUNA, August 1977).

Events in the last eight months have more than confirmed this thesis and there is no doubt future events will confirm this further.

Soviet social imperialism is daily tightening its neo-colonial grip on Ethiopia. Close to 20,000 Soviet backed mercenaries are stationed in Ethiopia. Out of these 17,000 are reported to be Cubans who have come in under the oft-repeated noxious pretext of preserving the "territorial integrity," and rescuing "the revolution."

There is no mystery as to why the Soviets have stepped up their penetration of Ethiopia. In their contention with U.S. imperialism for world domination, the social imperialists are frantically running around to control strategic areas such as the Horn of Africa. It is to squeeze out the other super-power in every region, to be in a better position to launch a new world war. In the meantime the soviet revisionists want to extinguish the peoples revolutionary struggle in Ethiopia and to use the country as a stepping

stone to throw their weight around and commit further aggression in other parts of Africa.

The Ethiopian military regime and its revisionist masters are literally intoxicated by 'successes' achieved in the Ogaden. In cities and villages there is bloodbath everywhere and terror reigns supreme. There is a large scale preparation to wage a brutal campaign against Eritrea and/or to threaten the liberation fronts into capitulation. But we are confident that this will come to no good end for the Eritrean people, who have waged seventeen years of relentless struggle will not be cowed by such counter-revolutionary schemes. It is characteristic of all reactionary forces to pose as indomitable. This false posture of the imperialists and the military regime will in no way change their real essence, that all reactionaries, in the final analysis, are paper tigers.

The vicious enemies the Ethiopian revolution faces indeed complicate the struggle and make it more protracted. Such a situation, of course, demands of the revolutionary forces to make a scientific assessment of the objective situation to defeat vicious enemies such as Soviet social imperialism.

At present the Ethiopian revolution is at a critical juncture. [continued on page 2]

Eritrea: New Czars Step Up Agression



The heroic struggle of the Eritrean people which has raged on for the last 17 years is still advancing in spite of the intrigues and conspiracies of U.S. imperialism, Soviet social imperialism and the Ethiopian military regime. At present the ELF and EPLF, who control almost all of Eritrea but for a few garrisons and cities such as Assab and Asmara, are gradually forging unity.

The resounding victories delight all friends of the Eritrean people while they have struck deep fears in the hearts of the Mengistu regime and its imperialist backer.

It is to be remembered that the military regime's savage policy of seeking a military solution to the Eritrean question is a continuation and further escalation of the same policy under Haile Sellassie. The only difference under the self-styled "socialist" regime is that the same policy is couched in "Marxist" phraseology. This was the case when the junta was under U.S. imperialism and still remains the case when the junta has changed its master to Soviet social im-

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Eritrea (con't from page 1)

perialism.

Not so long ago, the revisionists, in particular the New Czars and their Cuban stooges, claimed to be "friends" and "natural allies" of the Eritrean people. Today the same Eritrean movements are waging a just war against the same repressive regime which is engaged in an unjust campaign of genocide.

But where do the revisionists who once claimed to be such great "friends" stand now? It is an open secret that not only do the Soviets and their cohorts laud the junta to the skies as "socialist" and Marxist-Leninist" but they shamelessly hurl abuses and slanders at the valiant struggle of the Eritrean people. According to these revisionists the Eritrean struggle is now a struggle of "secessionists" (Castro) who are "agents of international imperialists and Arab reactionaries" (Pravda).

Like all reactionaries the revisionists too employ the dual stick-and-carrot method to subvert the peoples revolutionary struggle. For example, the Cubans, while denouncing the Eritrean struggle on the one hand, they have been putting on a pretentious air of "concern" on the other, in an attempt to disarm the Eritrean combatants. According to certain western reports (Observer, 3/12/78), Cuba's vice president Carlos Rafael Rodrigues had said that Cuba had helped the Eritreans "in their fight for self-determination" and that Cuba would not allow the Derg to use Cuban troops to put down the "Eritrean liberation movement". He also added "Eritrea is an internal problem of the Ethiopian revolution" and hence a "political" solution should be sought.

The "concern" of the revisionists and their seeming interest in negotiations can only stem from ulterior motives. Of course, as a matter of principle, one should not oppose negotiations since it is an important method of struggle. But what the Soviets and Cubans seek in "negotiations" and "political" solutions is something diametrically opposed to the fundamental aspirations of the Eritrean people who have waged a long and bitter armed struggle. There are negotiations and negotiations. But what the revisionists want is a negotiation under their supervision and dictate. Their "political" solutions and "negotiations" are baits designed to lure the liberation fronts to compromise in the interest of Soviet social imperialism. It is an old reactionary trick of waving the olive branch with one hand while drawing the sword with the other.

Facts show that the revisionists are mortal enemies of the Eritrean people. Already over 4,000 Cuban troops have been airlifted to the besieged city of Asmara. Ethiopia's commercial planes were busy airlifting Cuban mercenaries from Angola to Eritrea. Under the supervision of Soviet social imperialism an air strip is being built for Migs in the city of Makalle, which is located only 80 miles from the southern border of Eritrea. In Gondar and Axum supply depots are being built. To accommodate light reconnaissance planes smaller air strips are also being built on Dahlak Islands. In Assab an army, navy and air force base are being hastily

constructed. The overall military operation is of course being supervised by Soviet social imperialism.

Furthermore, Soviet tank and artillery experts have been busy working with the junta in preparing the offensive against Eritrea. For instance, during the battle for Massawa, Soviet ships were reported to employ BM-21 multiple rocket launchers in an attempt to break the siege of the city.

At present the junta's policy of repression have been further escalated with the stepped up support of soviet social imperialism. According to a recent EPLF spokesman (Reuter, 11 April), soviet-built Mig jets were dropping napalm and cluster bombs on villages near Asmara and Massawa in an attempt to recapture the strategic road linking the two cities. As the spokesman further pointed out "the Mig jets have been bombing the suburbs of Massawa...and the villages of Nefasist and Gimda with the express purpose of "trying to demoralize the civilian population" and to release the liberation forces' strangle hold on Asmara.

But the Eritrean people have not been cowed by such a pressure. Militarily, they have already captured several soviet-made tanks and downed many planes. They have also foiled several attempts by Mengistu's as well as the Soviet-Cuban troops to recapture areas under the control of the liberation forces. And politically, they are working towards unity.

At present the military junta is busily engaged in fanning a reactionary and chauvinist hysteria by presenting the Eritrean struggle as an "Arab-Imperialist" plot to dismember Ethiopia. This fraudulent spectre of an "Arab-Imperialist" plot is a false pretext to confuse public opinion both at home and abroad as to who the real imperialist power is, the Arabs or the Soviets.

The Junta's reactionary scheme has nothing to do with the interest of both the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples. In fact, it is against the interest of both people. It is in the service of the U.S. imperialism and Soviet social imperialism who are fiercely contending over the Red Sea region and the Horn of Africa. The Ethiopian and Eritrean people have nothing to gain from fighting each other; but they have a whole world to win by fighting against the hegemonist and enslaving ambitions of Soviet Social Imperialism and U.S. Imperialism.

We are confident that so long as the Eritrean people persevere on the time-tested path of armed struggle, primarily rely on themselves, unite with their real friends in the region and internationally, final victory will be assured.

The Ethiopian Students Union in North America, reflecting the deepest aspirations of both the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples, has always maintained a principled support to the just struggle of the Eritrean people and their right to determine their own destiny.

We call on all progressive and democratic forces the world over to condemn and expose the nefarious activities of Soviet social imperialism and the Ethiopian junta and to show an active solidarity with Eritrean people who are waging a heroic armed struggle against Soviet social imperialism. □