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ABYOT



- *information bulletin
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- *bulletin d'information
du parti révolutionnaire du peuple éthiopien*
- *bollettino d'informazione
del partito rivoluzionario del popolo etiopico*



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ANTI-JUNTA STUDENT LEADER DIES MYSTERIOUSLY IN FRANKFURT

NENGIS HABTE-AB secretary for student welfare of the anti-junta World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students has died in a mysterious car accident in Frankfurt, on October 2. The car he was driving had an accident with two other cars. Among the comrades who were travelling with him a girl comrade from America Taitu has also died while two others have been gravely wounded. The accident remains shrouded with mystery. Nengis, a militant student, was the target of attacks by the junta's press media which labelled him "a leading EPRP agent." The possibilities of his being killed by the junta is not excluded, and investigations are underway. Meanwhile the junta has forbidden his family the right to fly in the body and bury him in Ethiopia. The EPRP condemns the fascist junta and honors the heroic comrades. GLORY TO THE MARTYRS!!

92 TEACHERS EXECUTED: latest reports reaching us indicate that 92 teachers have been executed in the last two weeks of september.

THE FASCIST REPRESSION IN ETHIOPIA

FOR MONTHS and especially since the momentous May Day demonstration of the workers and oppressed masses against the fascist junta, the EPRP has been calling on the revolutionary and progressive forces of the world to take note of the junta's desperation and its plan of massacre directed against the EPRP.

With the exception of the reformists from within and without, all were aware of the fact that the junta cannot survive on demagogy alone. In fact, it never subsisted on such a diet. From the moment it took over power it unleashed a systematic repression that had multi form dimensions-physical, ideological etc. Daily and monthly it accompanied its nauseating demagogy with a very intense repression. Democrats and revolutionaries were being killed from all walks of life. Solomon Wada, Melese Tekle Bekele and other democrats from the armed forces, Tadesse Biru and others from oppressed nationalities and countless students were massacred. Whole villages were wiped out in Bitchena, Wolayta, Wollo and other places. Prisons were being filled and new ones built. Mass organisations of workers, women, students, teachers, etc were being dissolved. New laws and ordinances were coming out that made all forms of opposition criminal strikes brought death elementary democratic rights became non existent. Daily, the mass media gushed out stifling and disgusting propaganda a barrage of lies was rained upon the people an ill defined "philosophy" made up of tidbits of nationalism/chauvinism, fascism and crude phraseology from some Marxist classics was declared the truth that all must follow. Against the EPRP against the Eritrean masses constant repression was practiced.

The crowning of terror the negation of all concepts of democracy, lies and demagogy such were the characteristics of the junta and its rule. The EPRP and the masses stood against this exposed it and fought it. It must be admitted that there were quite a few forces at the international level who were hoodwinked by the junta's demagogy and the bootlicking cries that were being made by the local reformists and their international

counterparts. Some of these not only eulogised the fascist junta as "socialist" but they even went out of their way to attack the EPRP as "ultra left".

It is difficult to hide the truth for long. Much to the chagrin of its apologists, the fascist junta became exposed increasingly and all could see that it was a terroristic force a spectre of death. The recent openly fascistic repression that the junta is carrying at a high level is no more than a continuation of the two years long butchery that our masses have been subjected to. If the socialism of the junta has deviated as some insist to uphold then we say to them that we never saw this socialism from the outset. What we saw was a fascist junta frantically mixing demagogy and terror to establish fascism.

What we saw was a junta that was failing in its criminal ambitions as a result of the evergrowing mass struggle under the leadership of the EPRP.

The fascist repression against the EPRP shows that the junta has reached the lowest level of isolation and desperation. It is a clear testimony of the failure of the junta to hoodwink or terrorise the masses into submission. Moreover, the repression is a clear indication of the fact that the EPRP has emerged as the uncontestable vanguard of the oppressed Ethiopian masses.

Countless revolutionaries have died in the last weeks. Others are being liquidated daily in prisons and camps, many comrades are being subjected to inhuman torture. The mad dogs of the junta are raving and loose. Blood flows in Ethiopia. The fascist junta is on its death bed and now no demagogy no arms, no apology by reformists can save it from its doom. The EPRP and the masses are resisting, fighting and scoring victories. Reactionary violence is being met with revolutionary violence and the bitter suffering of the masses is promised a future of victory. We pay homage to the martyrs of the revolution.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE EPRP WHY BY WHO, AND HOW

The massive repression that has been directed against the EPRP is now documented by the world at large. The fascist junta led by Major Mengistu has given the final and desperate order crush the EPRP.

The open declaration of war against the EPRP was motivated by the junta's isolation and impending doom. In the last two years, the mass movement against the junta has not decreased but has increased both in depth and intensity. Since August 1975, the time the EPRP declared its existence the mass struggle has found the organisational tool the vanguard that it was lacking. With the EPRP at the head, the struggle of the masses intensified and the woes of the junta doubled. All its demagogy were exposed its dictatorial actions resisted and fought. The fascist intellectuals grouped around Haile Fida were exposed as no more than fascists who use socialist jargons to crush the popular struggle. Openly and clandestinely, the mass movement grew in might and assumed political clarity. The EPRP was embraced by the masses as their vanguard. THE EPRP IS OUR PARTY such was the slogan of workers and the oppressed. And on many occasions the EPRP concretely showed that it led the mass struggle. During the junta's planned march on Eritrea the EPRP exposed and fought this plan of genocide with so much vigour that the invasion plan failed even before it stood on its feet.

Hence, for the junta and the fascist intellectuals the EPRP is THE enemy, the one that has to be destroyed if the mass struggle is to be liquidated and fascism assured a stable existence. As a result for the last four months, Major Mengistu and the Haile Fida led fascist intellectuals (with whom the major is allied) worked on the other members of the Derg and the public at large in order to justify the unleashing of a massive repression against the EPRP. Even though it is reported that not all members of the Derg were well disposed to such a major offensive (notwithstanding their opposition to the EPRP), the repression planned by the fascist intellectuals and Major Mengistu is being carried out.

This is primarily because the so-called Derg has become a fiction and all power is at present concentrated in the hands of Major Mengistu and his followers (including the fascist intellectuals led by Haile Fida who control the so called "Provisional Peoples' Organising Office")

Once the fascist major and his intellectual pets agreed on the offensive, a massive propaganda campaign was unleashed against the EPRP. The EPRP was accused of being in league with feudalists with the CIA, of creating food shortage, of controlling the rainfall (!!), of being anarchist or being a party of princes, of aristocrats, of petty bourgeois elements, etc. In short, the junta blamed the EPRP for all the ills that afflict the Ethiopian society. The aim of the propaganda is to create hatred against the EPRP, to isolate it and crush it. And in a characteristic chauvinist vein, the junta went on to accuse the EPRP of working in league with the Eritrean fronts, Somalis, Sudan etc. The church preached against the EPRP and called for obedience to the junta.

The lies about the EPRP and the provocation acts are continuing. They are all signs of desperation and have found no echo except amidst the known opportunist and reactionary circles inside and outside the country.

THE JUNTA'S LIES ABOUT THE EPRP

IN a separate communique, the EPRP has responded to the brazen lies that the junta has been spreading about the EPRP. Some of these attacks are so ridiculous that the EPRP does not even consider it worth negating. Take for example the accusation that the EPRP has been controlling the rainfall in order to subvert the revolution! (see the ECONOMIST, Oct. 2, London). How low can the fascist junta go! It is quite interesting to note that a junta which claims to be "socialist" is no better than a disciple of a backward witch doctor!

THE CONTINUING MASSACRE OF REVOLUTIONARIES.....MORE THAN 150 people killed in one week

On September 22, the troops of the fascist junta executed 14 people in Addis Abeba as part of the witch hunt against the EPRP. The junta lying as usual, has admitted that it has only wounded three and captured many others. From September 23 to October 1, a total number exceeding 150 people have been killed in Addis Abeba. Many of the murdered are workers, students and revolutionary intellectuals who are all suspected of being sympathisers of the EPRP. Observers have noted that the morgues of the city's hospitals are filled with corpses.

MUTILATED BODIES OF 22 YOUTH FOUND IN SEBATA

On previous occasions, we have reported that the bodies of no less than 100 people have been discovered in mass graves in various parts of Ethiopia. The latest of such graves has been found in Sebata, some kilometres outside of Addis Abeba. The discovery, which occurred on the last days of September, was precipitated by hyenas who dug the shallow grave and started to devour the corpses of two young persons. The villagers who rushed to the scene were met with this horrifying scene and despite the opposition by the police dug deeper and uncovered the corpses of 22 young people of whom two were girls. All the corpses, which were recently buried, carried signs of brutal torture (gauged-out eyes, chopped fingers etc). The young revolutionaries were tied and shot by the troops. This brutal mass execution is one in a series that the junta has been and continues to undertake in an effort to crush the EPRP.

30 more bodies found on the outskirts of Addis Abeba

The bodies of 30 people who have been summarily shot dead by the junta have been found in a ditch just on the outskirts of the capital city on September 27. The dead were mainly workers and students. The corpses were found with their hands tied behind their backs.

MORE THAN 28 MILITANTS SHOT DEAD ON CHARGES OF HAVING DISTRIBUTED EPRP PUBLICATIONS

In the capital city alone more than 28 persons have been shot dead on charges of having distributed EPRP publications. The shooting occurred on September 24 and September 25.

It is not possible at this stage to precisely indicate the number of people that the junta has been killing. Daily scores are being shot in Addis Abeba and in the provinces. Many have been taken out of the prisons and no one knows where they have gone to. In addition, the junta has refused to hand over the corpses to the family or the relatives. The killings have been stepped up since the attempt on Mengistu's life and the shootings of Fikre Merid, one of the fascist intellectuals working at high levels with the junta.

MORE THAN 1600 PEOPLE ARRESTED

SINCE the junta declared war against the EPRP a month ago, more than 1,600 people have been arrested and sent to concentration camps and prisons. In the prisons and camps torture is being widely employed indiscriminately. The number of arrested people is increasing daily. It is to be noted that thousands of political prisoners were languishing in jail long before the recent wave of repression started. On September 23, scores of people were arrested in Dire Dawa for having distributed pro-EPRP leaflets amidst a government arranged anti-EPRP demonstration.

Dozens of workers from the Air Lines Railway and Telecommunication have also been arrested. Previously the arrest had affected numerous workers from the Tobacco Monopoly and other sectors who had gone on strikes.

Exposing this massive and criminal repression, the EPRP has called on the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (ex-Bertrand Russell Court), on Amnesty International and all other democratic and revolutionary forces to denounce the fascist junta and its repressive acts.

JUNTA SENDS ASSASSINS TO SUDAN, EUROPE AND AMERICA

An eight-man assassin team of the fascist junta has arrived in Khartoum. Sources close to the junta affirm that the team is charged with the task of liquidating anti-junta revolutionaries living in the Sudan, Western Europe and North America. The countries that the killers are expected to go to are Germany, France, Italy, Holland, England in America, to Washington and New York. The junta's mass media has stepped up the campaign against anti-junta revolutionaries living abroad. The pro-junta students

in Paris and Sweden are serving as informants for these killers.

FRIGHTENED JUNTA CALLS IN ZIONIST TRAINED FORCE TO ADDIS ABEBA

FOLLOWING the mass resistance against the junta and the revolutionary offensive launched by the forces of the EPRP, the Derg has called in the NEBELBAL UNITS (Flame Brigade) into Addis Abeba. The Flame Brigade, considered by Major Mengistu as his own loyal unit, is composed of illiterate soldiers who have been given six-months intensive anti-guerrilla training by Israeli officers. The Brigade is given very many privileges and is considered as an elite force on whom the Derg can rely especially now when the armed forces is seething with unrest. It is to be remembered that the Flame Brigade crushed the rebellion by the Air Force and paratroop units in July. The new recruits of the Flame Brigade are now being given courses on assassination kidnapping and other covert operations of a military nature.

JUNTA STEPS UP "PROPERTY IS SACRED" PROPAGANDA TO SUBVERT POOR PEASANTS

In an attempt to turn the peasants who have managed to acquire plots of land into raving defenders of the status quo, the fascist junta has insidiously stepped up its propaganda against the EPRP and is telling the peasants that the EPRP wants to collectivise their holdings, that the EPRP is against private property etc. By pushing this line, the junta also intends the dilution of the peasants demand for political liberty. In some southern areas the junta has also used nationality problems in order to divide the peasants and weaken their united action. It is to be noted that in Wollo some months ago, the junta duped elements acted counter to their own interests and that of the revolution.

Added to the fact that the socialist junta is soliciting the help of the Orthodox church this private property is sacred line shows the vile and reactionary nature of the demagogic junta. In conjunction with this the junta is continuously lying that the EPRP is out to nationalise the small bars barber shops and the like and is thus attempting to terrorise the people and turn them against the EPRP. The propaganda offensive in the rural areas is destined to have the peasants stand on the side of the junta to fight the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Army the armed wing of the EPRP. However this ambition of the junta is not meeting any appreciable success in many areas.

AMERICA NOMINATES GODLEY, "THE BUTCHER OF LAOS", AS ENVOY TO ETHIOPIA
 THE close ties that exist between America and the junta are well known and are not affected by the generalised attacks that the junta demagogically makes from time to time against imperialism. A vivid example of the close ties has been the massive military aid (\$200 million worth till September 1977) that Washington has accorded to the fascist junta.

At present both America and the junta are worried by the development of the revolutionary struggle under the leadership of the EPRP. So much so that Ford has nominated one of the most well-known anti-communist butcher as the new envoy to Addis Abeba. He is none other than G. McMurtie Godley. Godley has served as American ambassador in all the areas where the mass struggle threatened the neo colonial rule. Thus in the 1960s, he was ambassador to the Congo (Zaire). From 1969-1973 he was ambassador to Laos where he conducted the secret war against the Laotian revolutionaries. According to the Washington Post, Godley personally directed the air strikes and military operations against the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese positions. For his role in this war he has been attacked even within the US congress. From 1974-1976, he served as ambassador to Lebanon where he perfected the plan for the strengthening of the fascists and the liquidation of the Lebanese and Palestinian revolutionaries. Many times the PLO has accused him of being a CIA agent and the main supporter of the Phalangists.

Godley is nominated to Ethiopia because the Yankees feel that the situation in Ethiopia is getting out of control. The butcher of Laos, Lebanon and Congo is expected to bring his expertise to Addis Abeba and carry out the American plan for the extermination of the EPRP. Already, the CIA in Addis Abeba led by Eugene L. Jeffers is collaborating with the junta's security services in the identification of revolutionaries and in carrying out systematic eliminations. (Ridiculous as it may seem the pro-American junta has accused the EPRP of being in league with the CIA!!)

JUNTA PERSECUTES THE PLAN TO WIPE OUT THE MILITANT YOUTH

According to a secret memorandum circulated amongst the higher echelons of the ruling junta, the most effective way to cripple the EPRP is said to be to deprive it off cadres. As a consequence the junta has approved a plan of liquidation of as many young people as possible whether they are members or sympathisers of the EPRP.

This criminal plan that has an eerie resemblance to the American operation Phoenix employed in Vietnam is already being put underway. Hundreds of young people have been summarily executed and thousands are languishing in jail. In the coming days and months many more will surely be killed either secretly or publicly. It has been noted that in Addis Abeba troops have been breaking into houses and shooting on sight all the young that they could see. In addition, the Haile Fida fascist intellectual clique has supplied the junta with the names of hundreds of student militants that ought to be eliminated. In Wolliso, Kaffa, Harar, Tigrai and other places the anti-youth campaign is continuing...With the liquidation of a great number of the militant youth, the junta hopes to weaken the EPRP and thus abort the struggle in the country. It is a dream despite the fact that countless of the finest elements of the country are victimised by this barbarian repression unleashed by the mad dogs in power and their intellectual mercenaries grouped around Haile Fida and his so called All Ethiopian Socialist Movement!

LEADERS OF THE WOMEN COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY KILLED

As yet unconfirmed reports reaching us affirm that the leaders of the banned Ethiopian Women's Coordinating Committee have been executed by the junta. Many of the leaders and militants were reportedly under arrest. The EWCC worked to mobilise the oppressed women and to organise them autonomously.

JUNTA MEMBER TORTURED TO DEATH

A junta member who was in charge of the Zemetcha (rural student campaign), Major Kiros Alemayehu has been tortured to death. (Junta has officially announced that the major committed suicide in prison!) Major Kiros, notorious reactionary, was arrested on suspicion of

working with the executed other junta leader Major Sisaye. While being transported from one place to another, Major Kiros has been heard crying and shouting to passer bys that the junta intends to kill him. His death and that of Major Sisaye has strengthened the Major Mengistu faction within the junta.

BRUTAL TORTURE OF PRISONERS BECOMES INSTITUTIONALISED

THE junta and all notions of humanity or due process of law are strangers they have not met and are not likely to! The junta arrests jails and kills without any due process of law. Cruel and inhuman punishment of the most barbaric variety are meted out to all prisoners. Of late the torturing of prisoners has become a routine. The torture employed varies from place to place. In the prisons of the security forces where targeted revolutionaries are being detained torture is carried out by elements trained in Israel and America and use methods employed by their mentors. In the army camps and concentration camps, the torture ranges from crude beating up to making prisoners roll naked on human excrement or drinking a mixture of mud and human urine. One student has been killed in Harar when the troops put him into boiling oil and barrel of cold water (alternatively) in an effort to make him confess. The gouging of eyes, crushing of testicles, chopping off fingers, etc are common practices of the troops. Women prisoners have been raped on many occasions.

JUNTA PLANS TO DISSOLVE THE POLICE FORCE

IT is reported that the fascist junta has planned to dissolve the police force. All expectations are that the junta will use this occasion to engage in demagogy and to allege that it has turned the task of keeping order to the people themselves. However the reasons behind this plan are quite different than a woory for popular control. For long now the police force has been filled with dissidence and the situation has reached a point where the police units have refused to obey the junta's orders. More than that they have also sided openly with the masses on many occasions. During the May Day anti-junta demonstration police joined workers and the masses in Jimma and Harar to protest versus the junta. IN Jimma, numerous police officers and NCOs were caught while distributing the anti-junta clandestine publication. "Oppressed

Soldier." And when workers of the Dutch owned Methara sugar factory beat up the racist and reactionary managers police joined in the action on the side of workers. These and other similar incidents have convinced the junta that it cannot assign the police force the task of keeping fascist order. Hence, the plan to dissolve it.

POPULAR STRUGGLE VERSUS THE FASCIST JUNTA

DESPITE the fierce repression, the struggle of the Ethiopian masses against the fascist junta is continuing unabated. Thanks to the leadership of the EPRP, the struggle is moving ahead in a coordinated and revolutionary manner. The junta itself has been forced to admit that the EPRP has succeeded to mobilise the peasants and workers of the country not to mention the militant students and intellectuals. With the development of the situation and the heightening of the junta's repression, the struggle has also emphasised the armed form of struggle as legitimate self-defence and as a necessary means to break the reactionary state and its apparatus. Strikes, demonstrations refusal to obey the junta's exhortations, killing of junta officials, refusal to sell grain to the junta etc are all mass actions against the junta's rule. Some instances of the popular action against the junta:

SEPTEMBER 12 Boycotted-following the call of the EPRP the workers and oppressed masses boycotted the second anniversary of the junta's takeover of power. In fact, workers of the Air Lines, the Banks and others distributed resolutions of their meetings explaining that this day is not a day of celebration for the masses as it is on this day that the autocratic rule of Haile Selassie was replaced by the fascist rule of the Derg.

STRIKE PARALYSES THE PUBLIC SECTOR: Opposing the junta's repression against the EPRP and calling for a progressive labour law and wage increase commensurate to the sky rocketing cost of living (minimum wage of workers is around Eth\$50,00 while at the present time a survival wage cannot be anything less than Eth.\$120.00!) workers of the public sector went on a strike on September 19 and paralysed the capital. The employees of Banks water and electricity telecommunications, insurance, of the Yez-areyto Ethiopia newspaper, supermarkets"etc participated in the strike. Several were arrested. The junta also arrested several workers from the Air Lines, Railway

and telecommunications in an effort to break the strike or the strike plan. Troops have been given the orders to shoot on sight all those who strike or agitate for such an action.

MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE DERG From Sept 21-Sept. 23 the popular masses of Addis Abeba have staged massive anti-junta demonstrations in the capital. Many have been shot dead by the fascists. During the demonstrations the masses have affirmed their support to the EPRP and their hatred for the fascist dogs.

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE DICTATOR MAJOR MENGISTU ON September 23, the car of the dictator Major Mengistu was ambushed and shot at. In the 20 minutes long fighting between the attackers and the Major's bodyguards several soldiers have been killed. The major escaped with a leg wound. The major who blamed the attack on the EPRP feudalists and imperialists(!), has used the incident to step up the massacre directed against the EPRP. Some observers consider the assassination attempt a put-up job by the major himself. (see Economist, October 2).

FIKRE MERID AND OTHER FASCIST THUGS KILLED On October 2, Fikre Merid, one of the top executives of the Derg and known leader of fascist intellectuals, was shot dead in Addis Abeba. Those who killed him escaped while the junta has arrested two other persons and charged them with the killing. The killing of Fikre Merid brought the number of such reactionaries executed recently up to 58. The killing of Fikre is a revolutionary action, it is an act of justice by the revolutionary forces. The reactionary intellectual was a long-standing advisor of the junta and he was a top leader of the fascist movement calling itself the "All-Ethiopian Socialist Movement". As a long-standing member of the Haile Fida clique he was a member of the junta's Provisional Popular Organising Office and headed the Temporary Affairs committee within it. This office, which is the Derg's politbureau is in charge of streamlining or crushing all opposition elements and organising a junta party. It is to be noted that the Haile Fida clique are no longer mere advisors of the Derg. Thanks to their influence over the dictator Major Mengistu, they have power in their hands. They are ministers directors, political commissars, governors, planners of policy abolishers of mass organisations, launchers of the offensive against

the EPRP etc. The execution of Fikre and his likes manifests that revolutionary justice is knocking at the doors of the criminals in power.

EPRA CARRIES OUT SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS IN TIGRAY AND OTHER AREAS

The forces of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army have been carrying out successful guerrilla operations in Tigray, Wollo etc in the last month. Details of the operations will be published in the next numbers of ABYOT.

SOLIDARITY ACTIONS WITH THE EPRP

ALL over the world, the revolutionary and democratic forces continue to express their solidarity with the struggle of the EPRP and the oppressed masses. This solidarity action will continue in the coming future.

POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN CONDEMNS JUNTA, SUPPORTS EPRP

THE popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, which is fighting the reactionary Quabbous and the Iranian interventionist troops, has expressed its full support to the EPRP. In the September 18 issue of the Sawth Al Thawrath, organ of the PFLO, the Front has exposed the junta's repression against the EPRP and expressed its full support to the EPRP. This is one more manifestation of the growing solidarity between the Omani and Ethiopian revolutionary forces.

In Western European countries and North America revolutionary organisations have also expressed their solidarity with the EPRP and condemned the fascist junta.

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS IN EUROPE STAGE DEMONSTRATION AND HUNGER STRIKE

Following a call by the World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students anti-junta students staged a demonstration in Frankfurt on October 2. Starting on the same day they staged a hunger strike that lasted on October 5 with a press conference. Students in other towns and cities are also staging similar protests against the fascist junta and expressing their support to the EPRP. It is to be noted that anti-junta militant student unions grouped within the WWFES have been holding their yearly congresses and have expressed their support to the EPRP.

OTHER NEWSEDU FEUDALISTS VISIT AMERICA TO SEARCH FOR MORE FUNDS

THE feudal scums grouped around the so-called Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) have sent a delegation to America to solicit financial and military aid. The EDU delegates have been touring America meeting certain political personalities and asking for aid. It is reported that the EDU, which is training mercenaries has received a large quantity of arms and ammunition from Saudi Arabia and the Sudan. At the same time the EDU has succeeded to have one of its supporters (an Ethiopian) appointed as UN official for refugees in Gedarif (Sudan). Thus, the aid for refugees is being used for counter revolutionary purposes by the reactionary EDU.

THE SO-CALLED TIGRAY LIBERATION FRONT JOINS THE FASCIST DERG!

ON September 9, Dejene Tesema, the leader of the so-called Tigray Liberation Front gave himself up to the fascist Derg along with eleven of his followers and arms. The incident has highlighted the fact that the so-called nationalist groupings set-up by feudalists and anti-communist elements are in the final analysis objective allies of the fascist junta. Dejene is expected to assist the Derg in fighting the EPRA in Tigray.

Dejene Tesema is the son of a powerful feudal lord who is at present chief of the Derg's security in Agame region (Tigray). Dejene's nationalism erupted when he saw that the revolutionary development in Ethiopia and within Tigray in particular was dangerous for the interests of the feudalists. Thus, pretending to be a Tigray nationalist he started a big campaign against the multi-national EPRP and its armed wing-the EPRA. He colluded with Mengasha led bandits and plotted armed actions against the EPRA. However he did not succeed in his criminal plans as the EPRP is embraced by the oppressed masses of Tigray. Furthermore, the political consciousness of the Tigray masses had developed to such an extent that the feudal propaganda couched with strong nationalism could not cover the need for class struggle. Isolated, the Dejene Tesema clique resorted to terror and failed again. The back of this miniscule feudal band was broken when the EPRA following the demand of poor peasants distributed land to landless peasants in the Agame region. The land reform affected Dejene Tesema and he resisted it with arms. Crushed by the peasants and the EPRA, it did not take him

long to join the fascist Derg and to affirm his dedication to the wiping out the enemies of the junta. In addition he has resorted to attacks against the Eritrean Liberation Front.

Feudal bandits and fascist thugs make warm bed companions as this incident manifests. More importantly it is an indication of the fallacy of the narrow nationalist line that is being pushed by feudal and right-wing petty bourgeois elements. The national question can only be solved through class struggle under the leadership of the EPRP.

DIVISION WITHIN THE JUNTA ACCENTUATES

With the concentration of power in the hands of Major Mengistu and the Haile Fida clique the divisions and squabbles within the Derg have been accentuated. The most serious struggle is being conducted at present between Major Mengistu and Lt. Colonel Atnafu Abate. The long standing division between the two top leaders of the Derg is now at a critical stage and the rumors of an impending coup by Atnafu is circulating in the capital. However, observers note that Major Mengistu and the Haile Fida clique (Atnafu opposes the prominence of the Haile clique) may eliminate Atnafu even before he makes any move to oust them.

STARVATION IN ADDIS ABEBA BECOMES ACUTE

THE military junta likes to boast that it has eliminated the famine crisis that led to the death of almost half-a million people in Wollo and Tigray. We are forced to admit that the junta has succeeded to take the famine out of Wollo and bring it into Addis Abeba!

In the capital city basic commodities have become scarce. The price of foodstuffs, according to a recent report by the underground Ethiopian Workers Revolutionary Union, has gone up by an average of at least 88%. Teff, the staple food, is scarce and each family has to register at the district committee in order to buy the ration of 25 kilos per month. Bread is not easily found and no one is allowed to buy more than 0.25¢ worth. Flour is scarce and bread has been baked with so many ingredients that more than 250 people have been hospitalised for food poisoning.

The junta blames the problem on the EPRP. However, this situation is created by the anti-peasant policies of the Derg and by the

repression it has unleashed against small traders, crops of peasants have been taken by troops and feudal bandits alike. It is interesting to note that the junta distributes Teff and other commodities free of charge to army units like the Zionist trained Flame Brigade!

JUNTA REWRITES HISTORY OF THE COMMUNE, CHILE, ETC

In an apparent attempt to ship up opposition against the EPRP (whom the junta labels anarchist), the mass media and cadre schools of the Derg are repeating the novel assertion that the Commune and the Chilean revolution were defeated because of the plots of anarchists. Unbelievable as it may seem, the unabashed Derg compares itself to the French Commune and The Popular Unity government of Chile!! Pinochet may still learn quite a few tricks from the fascists in Addis Abeba!!

EPRP CONDEMNS THE NEO-COLONIAL PLAN FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE EPRP rejects categorically the neo-colonial manoeuvres that are being undertaken by American and British imperialists to continue the domination of Southern Africa. The Kissinger-Callaghan plan is no more than the maintenance of the supremacy of racists and imperialism in new forms. With the plan to set-up pro-imperialist regimes in Namibia and Zimbabwe, the imperialists plan to freeze the struggle of the African masses and buy time for the Vorster regime.

While condemning this reactionary plan and the African countries that support it the EPRP expresses its firm support to the armed and political struggle of the masses. There is no other way to liberation other than the violent destruction of the imperialo reactionary domination. With such a struggle the EPRP is in full solidarity.

EPRP CONDEMNS THE MILITARY COUP IN THAILAND

The political situation in Thailand has been developing favourably for the revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of Thailand. The latest coup hatched and carried out by the CIA and its local puppets is only a frantic attempt by hardpressed imperialism to

reverse the tide of history. The anti-communist hysteria, the chauvinism that is being whipped up against Vietnamese people and the butchery that is being perpetrated versus the revolutionaries are all actions that are destined to stiffen the resistance of the heroic Thai masses. The EPRP also expresses its solidarity with the masses of the Phillipin who have stepped up their struggle for democratic rights and for the downfall of the dictatorial regime of Marcos.

THE SYRIAN AGGRESSOR TROOPS WILL MEET INEVITABLE DOOM

Syrian aggressor troops, supported by the Phalangist monsters, are continuously committing massacres in Lebanon. However both within Lebanon and within Syria itself the Assad regime is being met with increased difficulties. No matter the degree of its repressive acts, its days are numbered and it will bite the dust both in Lebanon and Damascus. EPRP stands on the side of the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian revolutionary forces.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE MAO TSE-TUNG

On the sad occasion of the death of the great leader of the Chinese proletariat comrade Mao Tse-Tung, the EPRP has cabled its condolences to the central committee of the CCP and the Chinese masses.

The death of comrade Mao is a grave blow not only for the Chinese proletariat but for the world Communist movement as a whole. As the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, Mao successfully developed and enriched Marxist-Leninist theory, charted clearly the New Democratic path for carrying out the revolution in semi-feudal and semi-colonial countries, handled correctly the question of contradiction with the enemy and amongst the masses and creatively tackled the problems of transition towards a socialist society. Mao's death is heavier than a mountain, and his memory and teachings will undoubtedly live within the struggles of millions of the oppressed all over the world.

The greatness of Mao, as he himself pointed out is a result of the genius of the masses. The masses make history, knowledge lies with them. Mao stated this, believed and practiced it. And defying all dogmatic assertions, resisting the pressures of the Comintern and Stalin telling the CCP to compromise with the Kuomintang Mao led the CCP which successfully carried out a protracted war and violently seized power. If a people takes its destiny in its own hands, resorts to armed struggle under the leadership of the proletariat party, then it can succeed in its struggle. Mao taught the oppressed this through concrete practice and by 1949 the CCP had crushed the Kuomintang bandits and established a new China that has become a big factor for the development of the revolutionary struggle of other oppressed peoples.

Advancing from the New Democratic to the socialist stage, Mao correctly pointed out that there is class struggle within the socialist society and that there is a need for continuing the revolutionary struggle Rectification movements, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the struggle against revisionists etc all formed part of the overall struggle to realise a truly

socialist society. In this way also Mao, as leader of the CCP contributed immensely to the knowledge of the world working class movement on the necessity to struggle against deviations in order to assure the successful transition to socialism.

As part of the Working class movement and as integral parts of the oppressed people the EPRP and the Ethiopian masses cherish the memory of Mao Tse Tung and his teachings. The experience of the CCP under the leadership of Mao is very valuable for the struggle of all oppressed peoples. Party of the proletariat a united front to be led by it and a Peoples' Army under its leadership are necessary prerequisites for all struggles of the oppressed masses. And during the revolutionary struggle the CCP led by Mao has taught us that a people must be self-reliant and count on its own proper forces first not forgetting the international assistance. Under the leadership of Mao, the CCP charted an independent course resisted all foreign pressures, broke dogmatist assertions from certain quarters and persecuted the bitter war through to the end. And after victory the CCP led by Mao showed that purges and bloody eliminations are not the way to solve the contradictions amongst the masses. Thus, under the leadership of Mao and the CCP the Chinese peoples not only carried their new democratic struggle to victory but advanced heroically on the complex path of socialist construction.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of Mao that we would like to mention is his insistence on an independent analysis of the objective situation. In practice and theory he opposed dogmatism and revisionism. The many movements that dogmatically assert to follow his teachings need to ponder this crucial feature of the great leader who shocked established tradition with his analysis of the peasantry's potential and with his fierce determination to safeguard the independence of the proletarian party and to persecute a bitter war against insurmountable odds.

It is right to rebel said Mao. He not only rebelled but led a revolution to victory and left a giant imprint on world history. We pay homage to this great Marxist-Leninist and the heroic Chinese people.



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.