

The Liberation of the Imperial Ethiopian Government Embassy



THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OF ENGLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND 3 ENDSLEIGH STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

With the President's Compliments

TELEPHONE: EUSTON 2184

TELEGRAMS: UNDERGRAD WESTCENT

LONDON

See p. 21

WORLD-WIDE UNION OF ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS

THE LIBERATION OF THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT EMBASSY
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

July, 1969

A DOCUMENTARY

Prepared By

THE ETHIOPIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA









TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
E.	FORWARD1
II.	ESANA PUBLIC STATEMENTS4
III.	NEWS RELEASES23
IV.	MESSAGES OF SUPPORT49

FORWARD

The liberation of the Ethiopian goverfnment's Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the subsequent demonstrations staged during Haile Selassie's mission of homage to the stronghold of imperialism, are the most recent in a series of heroic actions undertaken by the World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students. This confrontation has risen to the revolutionary standards set by the demonstrations in 1966 against the concentration camps to detain the diseased and impoverished; the 1967 rally against the government act prohibiting peaceful public assemble; the 1968 demonstrations in protest of the seperation of the student movement; the continuing national student insurrection which has kept all schools and colleges closed this year. These courageous offensives launched against the regime are the first landmarks in the new history of the Ethiopian people.

The significance of these valiant deeds has been as multiple and complex as the Ethiopian Student Movement itself. Through these actions, the Ethiopian Student Movement has revealed the oppression endured by the Ethiopian people under Haile Selassie's regime. Varied as the demands are, they all serve to articulate the heavy indictment drawn by the Ethiopian people against the tyrannical order. It has been just as important to expose the alliances forged by the reactionary regime with imperialism. This new and dangerous adversary, which has intensified the burdens of the Ethiopian people, has come under attack. In this connection, the struggle to disclose the true colors of the alien regime had to be carried on overseas as well. These measures of the Ethiopian Student Movement have not been limited to drawing attention to the crimes of the present order. It has also been the effort of the Student Movement to point to the ultimate paths of the revolutionary emancipation of the Ethiopian people. The inescapability of social revolution has been affirmed as the only condition under which feudal oppression and imperialist domination can be defeated. The elementary but unavoidable truth that only the people can liberate the people has won acceptance.

As revolutionary acys, these blows dealt against the forces of reacton have served not only to demonstrate the ends but have also been effective in mobilizing the means to their realization. It has been the unmistakable message of these upheavals that nothing short of an armed people's movement can fulfill the historic destiny of the struggle. Accordingly, through these steps, the Ethiopian student Movemrnt has aroused the popular masses to the actualization of their true aspirations. The Ethiopian Student Movement has acted in support and solidarity of the peasant struggles now underway in Ethiopia. These aims governing the practice of the Ethiopian Student Movement are not, of course, peculiir to these assaults. Although our principles make their most dramatic and bobd appearances during these engagements, each step of the Ethiopian Student Movement is directed by these overriding objectives. What is unique to these dramatic offensives of the Ethiopian Student Movement is that they give correct expression to the impatience, rage and resolve of the people of Ethiopia.

These militant measures are also the means of consolidating our own ranks. Each new upheaval brings with it new arms, new voices and a new sense of determination to the total struggle. Through them, the Student Movement has undergone a most impressive development. The earlier demonstrations were carried out mainly by university students and were limited to Addis Ababa. The uprising in 1967-68 commanded a larger number of students and involved youth from secondary and primary schools. At this time, more students from the countryside were engaged. The upheaval this year marks a remarkable step forward. For the first time, the student demonstrations were initiated in the provinces and later proceeded to the

city. Throughout, the struggle has been national. The participation of secondary and primary school students has been exemplary. In several instances, primary school students have singlehandedly attacked various military and paramilitary installations of United States imperialism. Virtually the whole student population has been active in the struggle. It is a tribute to the Ethiopian Student Movement that rarely before has such an unrelenting battle for revolutionary justice been waged by students. The strength of the Ethiopian Student Movement has been so overwhelming that its forces alone have threatened the collapse of the autocratic regime. The development of the Ethiopian Student Movement overseas has been just as encouraging. This year has witnessed not only the greater mobilization of the members of the two overseas organs of the World-Wide Union, but also the growing consolidation of their joint forces. It is a mark of this development that the Ethiopian Student Movement overseas, stretched across two continents, could simultaneously seize the embassies of the feudal regime in the United States and various European capitals.

The efficacy of revolutionary practices is a measure of the level of political organization. In light of the uncontested victories won by the Ethiopian Student Movement this year, it can be said that close to a maximum stage of student organization has been reached. The level of mobilization, the determination of the uprising, the national scope of the upheaval, the militancy of the agitation -- all are perhaps the greatest that can be objectively demanded of a student movement in one of the most repressive regimes in the world today. It is the realization of these objectives that calls for more concerted attention to revolutionary organization among the rest of the population, notable among peasants and workers.

This assessment of the stage attained by the Ethiopian Student Movement must be understood with care. It is, of course, essential that the Ethiopian Student Movement be sustained at its present height of mobilization. This is indispensable just to combat the wide repression unleashed on the Movement by Haile Selassie's regime and its collaborators. At home, many will be behind bars for years as a result of the widespread persecution of students following the insurgency this year. Others are being constantly condemmed to the same fate through the expediency of the fascist Detention Act laid down by the government this year. This will require greater mobilization to win new forces to carry on the struggle. The political persecution including the various court and deportation schemes, following upon the Washington, D.C. demonstrations, will continue for several years to come. This alone will demand full mobilization for quite some time. The Ethiopian Student Movement will have to continue to win new members to its ranks while developing the political consciousness of those already engaged in the struggle. The coordination of the programs and actions of the various wings of the Student Movement will have to S. accelerated. These and other challenges are ample evidence of the importance of sustaining the student struggle. It is in answer to these challenges that the World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students has been established.

It must be clear, therefore, that what is being suggested is not a decline in the efforts on the student front. Rather sober reflection, born of practice. on the limits of student politics suggests that, in order for the Student Movement to continue even at its present level, it is essential that other arenas of political organizing be opened. In recognizing the importance of exploring new fronts, what is being stressed is the systematic relationship obtaining between the various parts of the national struggle. Idother words, for the Ethiopian Student Movement to grow substantially, it is necessary that the struggle he carried into new and wider grounds.

The broader battlegrounds of the fight have always been evident in the struggles of the Ethiopian Student Movement. The concern has never been with the relatively privileged condition of students. Rather, the endeavour has always been to give correct and urgent expression to the grievances of the popular masses of Ethiopia. From the demonstrations against the concentration camps for the dispossessed to the insurrection this year, the Ethiopian Student Movement has always rallied around the cause of the masses. This could not have been clearer than in the onslaughts of 1969. Even the obstensibly student demands are revolutionary in impact and content. Thus, the demand for the cessation of exorbitant school fees was made to voice the social prohibitions imposed on peasants who bear all taxation. The call for an end to the embezzlement of public wealth on decadent ostentation was directed at doing away with the greater dispossession of the all too exploited masses. Each of these specific demands was meant to further the objective of total emancipation from feudalism expressed in the slogan, "Land to the Tiller". The demand for the withdrawal of American Peace Corps teachers reasserts the unmitigated opposition to imperialism. The new direction of the Student Movement finds no more eloquent testimony than in the propaganda of the Statement this year. The propaganua of the beatert Movement at home has been national in dimension and revolutionary in content. Peasants, workers, the rank and file of the soldiery and priesthood, prostitutes and other destitute groups in the towns were addressed extensively. Each piece of political propaganda evidenced painful awareness of the plight of the dispossessed masses as well as their might. The direction of the Student Movement has already borne fruit. It is in this period that peasant revolts have spread through wider areas of the country. It is a direct result of these developments that progressive elements have joined ranks with the students in the struggle this year. Similar progress is reflected in the programs and actions of the Student Movement over-

seas. The political analysis and propaganda carried on by the Student Movement in Europe has been addressed less to the structure of the Student Movement and more to a study of the popular forces who will be the primary agents of the Ethiopian revolution. The choice of the subject of regionalism for the deliberations of the 17th Congress of ESANA mirrors this same concern. Where the question of furthering the common front between student movement and peasant and worker movements is posed, it has been the common practice of reactionary subterfuge to raise the spectre of regionalism. In preparing ourselves for the political organization, of the popular masses, we must come to grips with this question.

What is being stressed here, therefore, is not something novel but the very outcome of our accomplishments. To facilitate the march to the country-side, it is essential that a revolutionary organization be established. The foundation of a national liberation front will lend strength to the trends already underway. It shall be the work of such an organization to mediate between revolutionary theory and practice, between student and peasant and worker movements, between the city and the countryside, between the past and the future of our struggle. It is of the very nature of revolutionary practice to usher in new historic possibilities, new tasks and new men. We must now embark on this endeavour assigned to us by history.

INTRODUTION TO ESANA PUBLIC STATEMENTS

The first of these public statements pf ESANA was written both for ESANA members and for concerned and progressive peoples the world-over. Its purpose is to acquaint people with the true situation in Ethiopia. It was written and distributed because so many misconceptions about Ethiopia are perpetuated through the official Western and Ethiopian presses, whose obvious aim is to maintain the tottering and decadent regime of Haile Selassie. It is our belief that if people everywhere learn about the realities of Ethiopia today, they will, of necessity, come to the support of our heroic students, workers and peasants who are struggling for their liberation.

The remaining statements were distributed either within ESANA or to the public and press in order to rally Ethiopians and progressive Americans to the support of ESANA and the Student Movement in Ethiopia. They are in sequential order and recount the events of Haile Selassie's visit to the United States.

At the time of printing, fourteen students are still facing criminal charges in the United States for their actions in Washington. The proceedings will undoubtedly extend over a long period of time, will be extremely costly and will most probably result in the deportation of most of the students. Clearly these students are not criminals; rather it is the oppressive Ethiopian regime which is criminal.

No amount of harassment can divert our movement from struggling for the liberation of our people and country. Whatever and whenever the regime attempts to silence even one voice which expresses the will of the people, hundreds of others will come to his support. The will of the people in Ethiopia for justice and liberation can never be suppressed. ESANA depends upon your support. Contributions and publicity are still greatly needed.

Please contact one of the names listed in the statement of July 22, 1969.

REPRESSION IN ETHIOPIA PREPARED BY ESANA June 1969

Ethiopia is often portrayed as a country with a glorious tradition of a rich and enduring civilization. Except for the brief Italian occupation, it is known as a nation which has maintained its independance for over three thousand years. There is much we are proud of in this heritage. But beneath the picturesque medievalism of kings and queens lies the overwhelming reality of the misery of our people who have borne the burden of this pageantry. The Ethiopian masses who made heroic sacrifices to safeguard the nation's independance have become subject to a most oppressive internal domination. It is this dismal story of the hardships suffered by the vast majority of Ethiopians, that needs to be told.

Politically, Ethiopia remains a despotism. Power is exclusively held by the feudal nobility, presantly headed by Haile Selassie. No political parties are allowed. The only similarity the Parliament bears to a democratic institution is its name. Members of the upper house are personally appointed by the emperor who is free to overtile any decisions of the lower house. The emperor's decisions and legislation on all matters are binding and are not subject to review by the parliament.

"The parliamentary bodies, also called 'deliberative chambers' in the constitution, cannot legislate without the emperor's consent. Even their powers to initiate legislation are limited." (US Army

Handbook for Ethiopia, 1964)

The prime minister and cabinet members are imperial appointees. Discussing the uncontested power of the emperor, the government's official Guide to Ethiopia proclaims: "in practice, despite the structure of democratic government, most policy questions of any importance are referred to the emperor". But the constitution which provided for the establishment of parliament is not without a point. The purpose of the constitution is to consolidatethe emperor s power over all other feudal institutions, such as the nobility and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The US Army Handbook states:

"Both as regent and as emperor, Haile Selassie has tried to increase the power of the throne by desognong a broader, more constitutional framework within which traditional concepts of government might be adopted and the nobility and the Church brought more closely under the throne's leadership."

In light of this objective, it is not surprising that more than a quarter of the artivles of the 1955 Revised Constitution are devoted to the institution of the emperor which, according to the Constitution, is divinely ordained and indisputable.

The autocratic regime bears full responsibility for the devastated economic and social life of the nation. Ethiopia is an underdeveloped country standing lowest among the poorest countries. The per capita income is estimated to be between \$35 and \$50, a rate unparalleled by most African states. When allowances have been made in this figure for the incomes of the feudal nobility, the peasant's income is barely

at the subsistence level. Periodic famines are rampant throughout the countryside; annually at least one major province suffers severe starvation. The primitive state of the economy can be seen in the fact that 90% of Ethiopia's population is engaged in agriculture which contributes approximately 62% of the gross domestic product. Modern industry, including electricity and construction, constitutes only 5% of the total output. Modern manufacturing industries make up only 2% of the The contribution of total economy. mining is so small as to be negligible. Ethiopia is a perfect example of a one-commodity export economy. Coffee accounts for between 1/2 and 2/3 of the nation's total The country has value of exports. been suffering from a rapidly growing trade deficit which has reached such proportions in 1969 that it threatens collapse of the national economy.

The situation in health is alarming. The infant mortality rate is among the highest in the world. "Between 50% and 60% of the newborn children die in the first two and a half years after birth." (U.S. Army Handbook) Approximately half of the nation's adult population suffers from syphillis. In some urban centers syphillis has reached epidemic proportions. Leprosy is endemic throughout Ethiopia. In the province of Gojjam alone there are an estimated 110,000 to 125,000 lepers (Army Handbook). Of the 25,000,000 Ethiopian, spproximately 10 million live in malaria infested areas. Death from malaria alone is.estimated at 20,000 people year-"In 1958, for example, 400,000 persons are believed to have died in a malaria epidemic in Tigre." (Army Handbook) Typhus is rampant; amoebic and bacillary dysenteries

are widespread. Small pox has long, been endemic and few steps have been taken toward its prevention. To meet the requirements of the needlessly fast dying population, there is but one hospital bed for every 3500 people, and the majority of these are concentrated in Addis Ababa, catering to the ruling class. Less than 300 doctors provide services for the country's 25 million The first five-year plan allocated 2.3% of the total budget to public health. The government's concern for the people's health can be seen in its military expenditure which, in contrast to health expenses amounted to 30-35% of the total under the same plan.

Three decades have passed since Haile Sellasie announced that "a free public education is the right of every child". A UNESCO study shows that between 95% and 98% of the Ethiopian population is illiterate; a figure once again unequaled by any country. Of the estimated 6,093,000 school-age children, only 186,200 or 3% are in school. Of potential students over 15 years of age, 0.3% attend school. The very few who manage to attend school in the cities occupy classrooms with an average of 58 other students; in the countryside, the class size ranges from 79 to 94.

Such misery abounds in a country whose economic potential is considered great. Of Ethiopia's 450,000 square miles, much is plateauland which possesses one of the most fertile agricultural soils and grazing lands in the world. The country's broad range of climates and altitudes allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of agricultural products. According to the Ethiopian Planning Board, only 15% of potentially arable land (not including vast areas which

could be utilized through irrigation) 7 is at present cultivated. Even under these conditions, Ethiopia is one of the major producers of millet in Africa. It is the second largest wheat producing area in Africa. is the second largest wheat producing area in Africa south of the Sahara, and the most important barley producing area in the continent. Its coffee production exceeds that of most coffee-growing nations. American economist has estimated that, if properly cultivated, Ethiopia can produce enough food for the whole of Western Europe. According to a U.N. study. Ethiopia is secand only to the Congo in hydro-electric potential among African countries. Although minerals and oil resources have not yet been fully explored, it is known that Ethiopia has large potash and iron ore reserves.

Part of the reason for this disparity between the potential and actual is given in the offical <u>Guident Sthiopia</u>:

"There have been as yet no basic changes in the structure of Ethiopian society. The Emperor is the hereditary ruler. Then there are the great land-owning families whose heads bear titles of nobility and who serve as ministers, officers of state, governors of provinces military leaders and Church officials, Below the Imperial family and the nobles are the Amhara and Galla landed gentry who have been the major beneficiaries of educational opportunities abroad and make up much of the government personnel."

When the emperor in a speech in Movember 1961 declared, "It is our aim that every Ethiopian own land," the imperial family and the feudal nobility owned 65% of all the land and the State Church held between

20-30% of the most arable land. Article 2991 of the Civil Code provides that rent in kind levied on a tenant shall in no case exceed 75% of his crop yield. However, at the same time, the article provides that the landlord may evict any tenant who is unable to surrender 75% of his produce -- in effect setting the rent at exactly 75%. In addition, this law allows that a new landlord may expel tenants of the former landlord when the land is transferred. On the other hand. the code holds that a peasant is allowed to terminate his services only if he is too ill to work, providing that he gives four years notice, or if he dies. The latter condition needs no further comment. In connection with the first proviso, however, it is significant to note that on the average it takes three years before the land can be cleared for cultivation; thus the landlord is guaranteed productive land before the tenant is released from his obligations.

Aside from the payments in kind. the tenant is required to render various unspecified services to the landlord. It is estimated that the peasant's obligations in this regard amount to one out of three working days. Since the 1960 Civil Code, a Ministry of Land Reform and Administration has been established to further streamline the feudal property relations. In a 1966 study prepared by this Ministry, for example, it was found that in the Province of Sidamo most peasants made cash payments although the law states that tenants are expected to pay their rent in kind. In addition, 60% of the province's tenants were required to provide cash for government taxes normally paid by the landlord. Under the new administrative provisions, the peasant is increasingly burdened with the

demands of an unstable economy.

In the course of its aggravated oppression, the feudal regime has increasingly made common cause with American imperialism. Part of the United States economic hold on Ethiopia can be seen in a New York Times January 17, 1967 report.

"Ralph Pearson Co. operates a \$45 million mining project in the Dana-kil Desert. Dozens of American businessmen have already discovered Ethiopia, from a bookstore to a \$100 million potash mining project, from a spice firm to two of the world's largest oil companies. More than 200 American companies also have agencies in Ethiopia. Among the reasons, one of Africa's most liberal investment policies, generous duty-free and tax exemption provisions, special laws protecting U.S. firms against expropriations and vast potential in agriculture industry and mining."

The United States has one of its largest Peace Corps missions in Ethiopia. Ethiopia hosts the largest U.S. military "assistance" to Africa. The importance of the American base in Ethiopia is underlined by the New York Times (15 May 1965):

"The Kagnew Station, ...is in a relatively interference-free area, and has many advantages as the African and Middle East link in the worldwide system of U.S. communications. It is one of the most important stations of its kind in the world."

Haile Selassie, the "patron of African Unity", has not only leased Ethiopia to America, but has turned it into a base for the neo-colonial-isation of the entire African continent. A report in Africa ('65 No. 18) states:

"There is evidence that the present Ethiopian government is an imperialist agent... The OAU has asked all member states to remove all military bases. The fact that there is an American base in Ethiopia threatens the independence of Ethiopians. The American MAAG military advisors, the Mapping and Geographical Institute, and the Peace Corps presence -- all these strengthen the hold of imperialism in Ethiopia."

The number of Americans active in the various agencies of neo-colonialism in Ethiopis is and 10.000. In addition, the number of their dependents is between 25,000 and 30,000. Apart from stations in the countryside, large residential urtan areas are now American colonies. The continental significance of U.S. imperialism in Ethiopia can be seen in a report in the Illinois State Register (12 January, 1964):

"One of the most important showdowns between East and West is in the making in Ethiopia... Upon its outcome may depend whether the U.S. loses Africa. The U.S. must stand behind those who have supported it in the past -- in this case, Emperor Haile Selassie."

The benefit for the feudal government under the agreement on maintaining the military base is the American promise to keep the decadent regime in power.

However, this feudal oppression and imperialist exploitation has not gone unchallenged. Since the return of Haile Selassie from his sanctuary in Europe at the end of the Italian occupation, there have been a host of rebellions against the regime. In fact, a number of the patriotic liberation forces mobilized to resist the return of the feudal regime.

The most important of these attempts 9 to counter reactionary forces took place in the provinces of Gojjam and Tigre. The peasant-nationalist revolt in Gojjam was suppressed by British imperialist forces, who came in support of the man they had preserved during the occupation. leader of the resistance and the revolt against the feudal regime, Bellay Zelleke, was publicly hanged. The revolt in Tigre province was crushed by the feudal army. Immediately after the rebellion in Gojjam, the Weyanne revolt broke out and lasted for over a year. It was finally suppressed with bombardments by RAF planes from Aden. In 1945, there was a major peasant revolt refusing payment of excessive taxes. Yet another rebellion in Ogaden was crushed by British forces in 1948. A peasant uprising in Wollo in 1958 was met with "the eradication of a whole chain of villages from the map of Ethiopia". (New Left Review 1965) In April 1960 peasants in Southern Ethiopia protested the dispossession of their land by the emperor's daughter and some of her children. (Africa Today, May 1961) This protest led to the massacre of more than a thousand peasants. In December 1960 an attempted coup by the Imperial Bodyguard was put down by the army with the aid of planes flown by American pilots. All the leaders were subsequently hanged.

Since the 1960 insurrection, the struggle for liberation from the oppressive feudal regime has reached a new stage. Students, workers and peasants are carrying a nation-wide resistance and have begun to consolidate their forces. The last eight years have been a period of extensive armed peasant struggles, initiated in Eritrea and Bale. Workers have continually staged strikes in protest of exploitative labour conditions. During the last

year this national progressive struggle has been intensified. The heightened fight follows upon important developments in the political and social conditions of the country. The systematic difficulties of the nation have made a more conspicuous appearance. It is difficult to be precise about the dimensions of the current economic and fiscal problems because of the characteristic incompetence and obscurantism of the hugh bureaucracy. To cite one example:

"The 1958-59 budget was disclosed in the July 1959 issue of the Negaret Gaseta, published and circulated at the end of the summer a few weeks before the end of the fiscal year of September 9, 1959. In any event, budgets are in effect rendering of accounts rather than planning of state expenditure.

(U.C. Army Handbook)

The present problems, however, cannot be masked by such paper solutions.

Since 1963, the price of food has gone up by 35.6% and the price of clothing has increased by 26.8%. In the same period, wages have risen less than 5% while in some areas they have decreased by 12%. year the government has issued a directive prohibiting the employment of new personnel in government agencies for the next two years Of those already in government service, employees in a number of provinces have not drawn salaries for over three months. In a hopeless attempt at survival, a series of new taxes have been imposed by the government. On imported food, for example, customs duties have increased by 50%. Yet more taxes were demanded of the peasantry. The regime's restrictions on education are indicative of its desperation. Of the 12,000 students who will be sitting for college entrance examinations this year, the government decided that there were places available for less than 2,000. A new annual school fee of Eth. \$10 per child has been made compulsory. In Addition, a fee of US \$10 is required for school entrance examinations. The effect of these fees on education in a country with a per capita income of \$35 to \$50 is self-evident.

This state of intensified oppression and exploitation has given rise to a national uprising of workers, peasants, students and other progressive elements. Workers have staged numerous attacks in various provinces demanding wage increments and the rights of labor organiza-Among those engaged in the struggle are transportation workers, printing employees, and workers in the sugar factory. In some of these industries, leaders of the labor movement have been arbitrarily dismissed or physically eliminated. The workers have responded by going out on strike until the men are reinstated and reparations have been made.

In protest of the new taxes levied on land, peasant uprisings have spread to other regions in addition to those already underway in Bale, Borrena and Eritrea. The province of Gojjam has taken up arms against the regime. Similar uprisings are underway in Arussi and Harar. In retaliation, the government has mobilized its military and police forces against the peasant population of Ethiopia. Eritrea, Gojjam and other areas of peasant struggle have been under constant attack by army divisions which have been moved there. Air bombardment of these regions have been constant and severe. many areas, whole villages have been

wiped out and their inhabitants brutally murdered.

The Ethiopian Student Movement is in the forefront of these strug-Students are waging the gles. struggle under the banner of "Land to the Tiller" and Anti-Imperialism. The goal has become the building of a new Ethiopia based on a complete social transformation of the society. Reaffirming its resolute opposition to feudalism and imperialism, the Student Movement has drafted specific demands. The demands include: the withdrawal of recently instituted school and examination fees: just and equitable distribution of scholarships granted by any foreign nation; cessation of the use of American Peace Corps teachers, whose function is to serve as agents of cultural imperialism in Ethiopia; immediate termination of the vast expenditures on extravagant entertainment of foreign guests and similar visits abroad by Ethiopian officials; the removal from office of those officials directly responsible for the state of the educational system. The students also demand that various officials responsible for the killing of students during peaceful demonstrations be brought to public trials. University, secondary, and elementary school students throughout the nation staged demonstrations to voice these demands. They have been joined in their action by parents, teachers, and other youths. The government retaliated by closing all schools and colleges for over a month. when the institutions were ordered open, students refused to attend classes and continued to demonstrate until their demands were met. Since the autocracy made no gesture in this direction, almost all of the nation's schools and colleges remained closed for the rest of the school year. Ethiopian Student Movement overseas

has condemned the regime and supports the demands of the compatriets at home. Demonstrations of solidarity were hald at Ethiopian Embassies in various capitals including Belgrade, Stockholm, London, Noscow, Paris and Washington, D.C. 11

Throughout this continuing struggle, the government has employed the full force of its repressive machinery. Many students have been killed and hundred seriously wounded during the demonstrations. Thus far, mor than two thousand students and youth have been imprisoned in labor camps outside the capital. Many others are in various provincial and district prisons. Hundreds of students have been expelled from schools and colleges and await court trial. The first group, consisting of four students and a teacher, have been sentenced to five years imprisonment and hard lubor for alleged agts of defamation and endangering of national security.

Students and other persons held in connection with thes year's struggle have been subjected to extremely brutal treatment in prison. Some have been fatally beaten; others have been tied to cars and dragged over pebble roads. Prisoners have been kept in ice or stagmant water for days on end. The use of electric shock as torture has become widespread. In March (1969) the regime decreed a Detention Act setting a three-month imprisonment for any subject with a provision that the period can be extended at the discretion of the security arm of the government. Armed with this facist law, the reactionary regime has proceeded to subject thousands to the brutal practices it has perfected in an effort to forestall its downfall

In the face of such persecution, the uprising continues. At the time of writing many are still in prison awaiting trial. How arrests among students, workers and others are being made every day. All colleges and schools remain closed as the Ethiopian Student Movement is resolved to continue its struggle until all its demands are mat.

The people and students of Ethiopia are too familiar with the oppression and inhumanity of the feudal and neo-colonistist regime in Ethiopia. But the diabelical nature of the government and the true condition of the masses of Ethiopia remain unknown to world public opinion. That such a regime, through its control of the press and censorship, should attempt to hide its despicable practices does not come as a novel discovery. It is all the more imperative therefore that all well-meaning and progressive peoples everywhere make their voices heard in a condemnation of such inhuman acts.

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA

June 29, 1969

Dear Compatriots:

After squandering the public monies that resulted in unprecedented economic crises in the country, the arch-reactionary Haile Selassie will be coming to make his round of begging from his imperialist ally -- the U.S. government. It is announced that he will be in the U.S. from July 7th to July 9th inclusive. According to the information we have now, he will be in Washington D.C. for the first two days and in Chicago for the third day:

The Executive Council has strongly been urged by many of its members, individually and through ESANA chapters, to organize a demonstration. Moreover, the fighting students at home have specifically called upon us to use Haile Selassie's visit as an occasion to expose the crimes of his regime against the Ethiopian peo-Accordingly, the Executive Council has decided to carry the suggestion through. One demonstration will be staged in Washington. If Haile Selassie is going to Chicago, there will be an opportunity for our members in the Mid-West to stage another. The Mid-West chapters should go ahead and make their preparations.

These demonstrations will be staged in support of the Comrades in Ethiopia who continue to wage their heroic struggle against the reactionary, feudalistic regime of Haile Selassie. Many are now serving imprisonment terms ranging

from six months to five years. Thousands more, at one time or another, were arrested. The lives of many have been sacrificed. The struggle will continue. The battle should be waged on all fronts and the regime discredited whenever and wherever opportunities unfold. The causes of our struggle, the suffering and misery of our people, should be known to the world.

Those of us in North America (as members of the Ethiopian Student Movement) are duty-bound to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity in such a way as to give the fullest possible expression of our solidarity with the fighting youth of Ethiopia. We strongly urge the members to give evidence of their commitment.

All those who are coming to Washington should arrive by Sunday night and plan to spend the next two days there. On arrival call: (202) 462-6205.

Fraternally.
The Executive Council

Press Release From The Ethiopian

Students Association In the Fay

Area.

Haile Selassie of Ethiopia will be visiting the United States from July 7th to July 9th. We would like to make it known to all peace lovers of the world that atrocities and crimes against millions are being committed by his regime. All schools are closed at the moment in the capital city and people all over are fighting a decadent traditional system, where many are

doomed to serve a chosen few.

Ethiopia is the least developed of all African countries and has the highest illitracy rate as a result of centuries of rule by autocrats. Peasants do not own land and up to 75% of their produce goes to an absentee landlord. In recent years the gap between the rich and the poor has widened so much that there is open conflict between the polarized groups all over the country.

Haile Selassie's role in the past 50 years has been to promote the interests of his family and close friends and to keep all others in ignorance. No one leader in modern history has so successfully managed to fool the world, that pictures him as a "benevolent dictator who does no harm".

Ethiopian students in the USA resent that such a tyrant has been invited for a visit. He certainly comes to solicit aid from Washington that will be used against and not for the people. So far America has spent millions to keep him in power. A protest march is scheduled when the despot arrives in Washington on July 7th and at his second stop, Chicago, on July 9th.

We are marching forward knowing that determined fighters will al-ways win.

Fress Release - World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students

July 7th, 1969

On this occasion or Halle Selassie's visit to the United States of America, the Ethlopian Student Movement calls upon the Government of the United States of America to:

- Evacuate United States military and paramilitary bases and personnel from Ethiopia;
- Z. Terminate 1ts and programs to the anti-democratic, dictatorial and oppressive government of Haile Selassie, including the Military Assistance Advisory Group, the U.S. Mapping Institute and the Peace Corps;
- 3. Put an end to any material and moral support, including socalled economic aid, which is, at all times, used to maintain Haile Selassie's dictatorship and the oppression of the people of Ethiopia.

We call upon democratic and progressive groups in the United States to use all the resources at their disposal to see to it that the above points are implemented.

Press Release - World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students.

In this year of Haile Selassie's visit to the United States, all schools and colleges throughout Ethiopia have been closed. In the course of this same year, more than two thousand students have been imprisoned in labour camps. At least thirteen students are known to have been killed by police and military forces during peaceful demonstrations. Scores of students have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six to

twelve months under charges of leading these demonstrations. Five students, one teacher and two young Ethiopians have received prison terms of five years for alleged criminal acts against the state. Eleven high school students are presently appearing in courts in Addis Ababa for similar charges. Primary and high school students, and university students teaching in a one-year national educational service are being held in provincial prisons. A large number of students who have already been permanently expelled from colleges and schools are awaiting trial. Hundreds are in hospitals for injuries suffered under police and military brutality. Still more students, young people and other progressive elements are being constantly arrested under a fascist Detention Act issued this same year whereby any citizen can be imprisoned for six months without trial. Political prisoners are left in ice and stagnant water for days on end, dragged by cars over pebble roads, lashed while hanging by their feet, and subjected to torture by electric shock.

While Haile Selassie is visiting the United States, his armed forces continue to attact dispossessed peasants that are revolting against feudal exploitation in Bale, Eritrea, Sidamo, Gojjam, Arussi and Harrar. Whole villages have been wiped out and their inhabitants massacred by air bombardments. Peasants are arbitrarily shot or hanged. Workers on strike for wage increments and rights of labour organization have been arbitrarily dismissed, imprisoned or physically eliminated.

The exploitation perpetrated on the people of Ethiopia by Haile Selassie's feudal regime has led to a national uprising. The student movement which is a vital element in this nation-wide struggle of workers and peasant masses confronted Haile Selassie's regime with a set of popular demands early in March. These demands include an end to the waste of public funds through lavish entertainment of foreign guests and visits abroad by the Ethiopian court and its officials including such extravagant escapades overseas as Haile

Selassie's visit here now. The students are opposed to prohibitive school and examination fees in a country with a per capita income of \$35 and a literacy rate of under 5%. They further insist that officials responsible for the present condition of Ethiopian education be immediately removed from office. The movement has also demanded public trial of all officials responsible for the arbitrary killing and injury of students and citizens.

The struggle of the Ethiopian students against Haile Selassie's regime has been waged under the banner of Land to the Tiller. Therefore the student movement fully supports the peasant revolts raging in several provinces. The revolts are against the intolerable conditions imposed on the vast peasant population of Ethiopia. The peasant is, by law, required to surrender 75% of his produce to the feudal landlord. In addition to the obligations imposed on it by the feudal system over which Haile Selassie presides, the peasant population has become victim of rising taxes levied by force and coerion. The intensified and widespread uprisings this year are in protest against a new tax increment imposed by the regime to survive its most severe economic crisis in recent history.

Haile Selassie's present sojourn in the United States does not come as a surprise. This has been his established practice since his infamous escape to Europe during the popular resistance against fascist Italy. At the end of the Italian occupation, he was reinstated by British imperialist forces who subdued the popular revolts against his return. In 1960, there was an uprising to overthrow Haile Selassie's regime during one of his frequent trips overseas. At that time, the United States was instrumental in engineering his reinstallment. Haile Salassie's present mission is yet another attempt to secure United States' help to salvage the defunct regime. The United States is fulfilling its bargain to suppress all opposition to Haile Selassin's reactionary regime in return for maintaining its most important military base in Africa on Ethiopian soil.

The Ethiopian student movement is resolved to struggle until all its just demands are fulfilled. The fight will continue until all political prisoners are set free, and all responsible for their brutal acts against students are brought before public trial. No amount of repression will stop our struggle against Haile Selassie's feudal regime and its foreign patrons. Wherever Haile Selassie and his supporters are present shall be the battleground for the Ethiopian student movement, and each victory a step towards the liberation of the Ethiopian people. Our struggle will continue until feudal oppression is crushed.

Should our generation die in the course of this struggle, a still more determined generation shall rise to take up the historic task of building a new Ethiopia free from internal exploitation and foreign domination. We urge all men of good-will and progressive organizations everywhere to support our just cause.

ESANA July 7, 1969 ESANA BULLETIN

July 7, 1969

Fellow Ethiopians:

Today, July 7, the tyrant and traitor. Haile Selassie, arrived in Washington, Together with a large retinue of his bureaucrats and parasites, the dictator is here once again to beg bloody dollars for his pocket and guns for the murder and suppression of the Ethiopian people. In the bargain he will, no doubt, sell whatever is left of our country's sovereignty and resources to US imperialism which has a long and well-known history of maintaining the tottering feudal regime in our country.

As was announced earlier, scores of Ethiopian students from all over North America -- from as far off as Ohio, Wisconsin, Canada, etc. -- have converged in Washington to protest this latest public actioning of our country in the market of world imperialism; and in full support of the valient struggle of fellow students at home and around the world.

At 3:00 p.m. thirty Ethiopian students penetrated the embassy and ransacked it, destroying all the obscene pictures and decorations of the tyrant. At the same time more than eighty Ethiopian students demonstated in front of the White House beginning in the afternoon and continuing through the evening. Fourteen of those compatriots who participated in the occupation of the embassy have been jailed in Washington by the Yankee police. Five of our brothers and sisters have been seriously injured by the brutal assault of the police. They are charged with what the Yankees, in their usual travesty, call "burglary". These very same imperialists, who have turned our country into a neo-colony of theirs, fail to mention that they are themselves trespassers of Ethiopia's sovereignty, plunderers - self an attempt to selicit United States of its resources and despoilers of its culture.

The demonstration continues. At present about eighty Ethiopian students are continuing the public protest around the White House. The demonstration will continue throughout the duration of Haile Selassie's "visit".

All Ethiopians are called upon to make their support and solidarity known by publicizing these events which have already been prominently reported in the press, on radio and television throughout the world. It is vital that you make your support known by means of letters and telegrams to the US State Department, the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, to the agencies of the feudal regime at home. Please also send copies of same to ESANA's Executive at the following address: 388 Orange Street, New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.

> Fraternally yours, The Executive Council ESANA

PRESS RELEASE World Wide Union of Ethiopian Students July 8, 1969

Fourteen of our comrades were arbitrarily imprisoned and many indiscriminately injured during a demonstration staged by the Ethiopian Students Association in North America at the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington on July 7, 1969.

This is not the first time that the United States has deployed its forces in support of Haile Selassie's feudal regime. On various occasions, the United States has made common cause with the feudal regime by subduing all national struggles against Haile Selassie.

Haile Selassie's visit here is itaid to supress the present national uprising of the popular masses and students in Ethiopia. In return for the services 17 rendered to the reactionary regime, the United States maintains its most important military base in Africa on Ethiopian soil.

The United States' support to Haile Selassie is support to an unjust order which has seen its day. No amount of repression can stand in the way of victory for the popular struggle against feudal appression and foreign domination.

ESANA

ESANA BULLETIN

J.ly 11, 1969

Compatriots,

Inis is a follow-up to our URGENT circular of four days ago urging you to lodge your protest against the savage assault and imprisonment of our fellow students by US authorities in Washington who, true to their imperialist interests in our country and to their protective overlordship of the puppet regime, have once again revealed themselves as the co-oppressors and enemies of the UT impiral People -- a People struggling to free themselves from the enemies of feudal tyranny and meo-colonialist domination.

In addition to the 14 compatriots who were beaten and jailed on July 7, these same authorities arrested 10 more from amo 2 those colleagues who were participating in demonstations around the White House the following day. This took place at precisely the same moment when Haile Selassie and his boys were being dined and wined by Nixon and Co. in return for the further undoing of our country's sovereignty and the bartering away of her wealth on the table of cabal imperialism.

They are still suffocating our brothers and sisters in their dungeons while threatening deportation and/or condemnation in one of their kangaroo courts. They have demanded bonds amounting to \$49,000.00. Needless to say, our Association is not able to pay such money to the extortionists. But it is imperative that we hire a lawyer for the defence of our comrades. This is an expensive enough affair in such a country where the almighty dollar rules supreme and in such a system where justice is but one more commodity among other commodities.

Therefore, we have no choice but to call on you to contribute to the Defense Fund. Remember that no amount of monetary contribution or any other sacrifice each one of us makes here is too great when compared and contrasted with the far greater sacrifices and hardships borne by the Ethiopian People at home. So, please respond quickly and generously.

Fraternally, The Executive Council ESANA

ESANA BULLETIN

July 15, 1969

From our previous circulars, you have learned of the liberation of the headquarters of Haile Selassie's representatives to the United States. The persecution of our rothers and sisters by Haile Selassie's regime and his American patrons continues in full force. Twenty-five of our comrades lave been imprisoned thus far. All have been accused of various combinations of criminal acts in a futile and fradulent effort to obfuscate the unmistakable political nature of our struggle against Haile Selassie and his imperialist masters. Four are out on bail on \$1,000 each. Ten were convicted of "disorderly conduct" and were released on paying fines. Ten are still in prison under intolerable conditions perversely described as "maximum security". For the 18 tan, bail has been set at \$2,000 each. One of our comrades who stopped with the rest of the traffic while Hails's car was passing by was allowed to go when it was established that there was nothing at fault. He was later arrested in a hotel by FBI men under charges of "attempting to do bodily harm to Hails Selssie". The bail for him alone was set at \$25,000. The nonexistent charge was promptly dropped and he was held for "unlawful stay", and is swaiting deportation. Investigations are underway to deport other members of our organization. The hopeless objective of this extensive intimidation is to destroy our movement.

The Ethiopian Student Movement will continue to be the object of political frama-ups and other forms of harassment. We harbour no illusions about the legal paraphernelia which is another means of political oppression. We shall make every effort to shatter the political persecus tion which now appears under the camouflage of legalism, For this purpose we are soliciting the help of able and politically sound attorneys. We hold no hopes that this will, in any significant way, for the United States courts from rendering their expected services to Haile Selassie. But the Ethiopian Stu-dent Movement will have the eccasion to publicly expose the feudel oppression of the people of Rthiopis. Each time our voice reaches pressessive people, the hardships we bear will have been emply repaid. It must be remembered that our compatriots in Bthiopis live such day under life and death conditions.

THE STRUGGER CONTINUES

Fraternedly, The Exemptive Council PRESS RELEASE World Wide Union of Ethiopian Students

demonstrations on July 7, 1969 by the Ethiopian Student Association in North America, staged in Washington, D.C. The object of our demonstrations was to make known to the public the oppression perpetrated on the Ethiopian people by Haile Selassie's regime, as well as to expose United States support of the forces of reaction in Ethiopia. Following these decommensurations, members of the Ethiopian Student Movement have been imprisoned and subjected to various forms of harassment.

A glaring example of the political persecution of our members is the rase of Tena Alemayehou. On Tuesday, July 8, 179 Tena was driving in Washington, D.C. when all traffic was stopped to allow for himself the second to pass by Althouse there was nothing irregular about fena presence, he was arbitrarily singles by the D.C. police. The police sorrammer Tena's car, thoroughly examined his identification papers, searched his person automobile. Upon establishing that there was nothing at fault, he was allowed to

On the morning of Wednesday, July 1969, two members of the FSI errected is at the YMCA where he and other members of the Ethiopian Student Movement were staying. He was charged with "threatening and bodily norm to haile Selessie". Fall was set at \$25,000 to be paid in tash. However, on Thursday, July 10, 1963, the US Government had to spandon its prepositions charge.

Nevertheless, Tena was not released instead he was charged with "oblawful sea and handed over to the immigration and Deportation authorities. A new hall of \$2,500 to be paid in came, was set. The has since been detained in prigon and awaits deportation.

It should be noted that the Ethiopian Embassy was edemently refused to renew Tena's passport or to issue a new one. Since Tena's imprisonment in the Alexandria, Va. city jail, the Embassy authorities have stated that they would only give him pass papers to return directly to Ethiopia.

Tena Alemayehou has been an active member if the Ethiopian Student Movement throughout his three-year stay in the US. It does not come as a surprise therefore that the Ethiopian and United States governments have jointly resolved to eliminate him and other active members of the Student Movement. This is not the first time the Ethiopian government, in conjunction with the US, has attempted to systematically destroy the Ethiopian Student Movement by use of such repressive measures. It will be recalled that four years ago they tried unsuccessfully to deport these members of ESANA. Only last year, a leader of the Student Movement, Hagos G. Yesus, was thrown out of the United States through a joint scheme by the US and Ethiopian governments.

The Ethiopian government has left no doubts as to the treatment it reserves for members of our Student Movement. Shortly after their return from the United States this year, Tamrat Kebede and Henock Kifle, two members of our organization here, were sentenced to seven and one half years of imprisonment and hard labour under charges of conspiring against the state. Their work as members of the Ethiopian Student Movement in North America is the primary basis for this allegation. Should Tena Alemayehou be deported this will be the fate in store for him.

The frame-up of Tena most certainly will be reproduced for others; he is but the first of a series of members the government is determined to victimize. Investigations are already underway for deporting other members of our organization. However strong the persecution, it can only serve to consolidate the forces of liberation. We are fighting, and shall

continue to fight, against all the repressive measures of Heile Selassie's agents and the US government.

TENA ALEMAYEHOU WILL APPEAR FOR A HEARING BEFORE A SPECIAL INQUIRY OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT 1025 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C., ON JULY 18, 1969 AT 2 P.M.

July 17, 1969

ESANA BULLETIN

July 22, 1969

Sisters and Brothers:

We trust that you have received our previous circulars and that you are all informed of the confrontations carried out by ESANA on the occasion of Haile Selassie's visit to the US. The Executive Council will shortly provide detailed documentary information on all phases of the Washington demonstration. Here we will only make a brief recapitulation of the sequence of events.

On the afternoon of July 7, ESANA members who had come from various parts of the US and Canada, went to stage a demonstration at the Ethiopian Embassy; the demonstration was timed to coincide with Haile Selassie's arrival at the heavily guarded military airport on the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Thirty of the demonstrators succeeded in gaining entry into the Embassy building; they destroyed all the symbols and propaganda facilities of the feudal regime. Within minutes, a large contingent of the Washington police force arrived at the scene and began rounding up demonstrators. Several compatriots were beaten, many more were insulted and man-handled, a few suffered cuts and injuries. A total of 14 were arrested on various fraudulant charges.

That same afternoon , a large group of Ethiopian students staged a militant demonstration in front of the White House where Haile Selassie and his overlord Nixon were scheduled to confer. The demonstrators carried posters attacking the criminal government of Haile Selassie and denouncing the neocolonization of our country by US imperialism. ESANA leaflecs and pamphlets were widely distributed. The following moring July 8, another mass demonstration was held in the vicinity of the White House and Haile Selassie's residence. Here 10 students were arrested on the bogus charges of "disorderly conduct". They were carted off to a police station and later tried and fined. They were released after having the fines set.

Of the 14 arrested at the Embassy, 4 were charged with "unlawful entry" onto Embassy grounds, two of the 4 were further charged with "assault of a police officer" and 10 were charged with "burglary and destruction of private property". After 2 days of imprisonment, the first 4 were released on bond of \$1000 each. The other 10 were behind bars -- in the D.C. jail -- for 8 days (under so-called maximum security) before they were released on bond of \$2000 each.

On July 10, one other ESANA member was picked up by the F.B.I. at the Y.M. C.A. where he and other ESANA members were staying. He was charged with"attempting to do bodily harm to Haile Selassie". The bail for him was set at \$25,000. The following morning, the US government dropped its unfounded and preposterous charge; unstead, our comrad was threatened with deportation for "unlawful stay" in the US. After 9 days of stay behind bars in Alexandria, Va. jail, he has now been released on payment of the bond and is awaiting the decision of the Deportation Authorities.

ESANA is fighting and will continue to fight against all the repressive measures of Haile Selassie's agents and the US govern- need as much money as we can collect. ment.

The 14 patriots have begun to appear before regular court sessions, 9 of them will stand trial for charges which could convict them to 2-15 years in prison. But we are happy to report that all of them are being defended by well-known and politically sympathetic lawyers.

Throughout these developments; the most encouraging part has been the vast and prompt moral and material support given by the various chapters of ESANA. Money was collected and has either reached us or is on the way from New York, Boston, Madison, Philadelphia, Colorado, Los Angelos, San Francisco. In addition the New York, Wisconsin and Los Angelos chapters have taken several measures to publicize our struggle widely in their respective areas. Messages of solidarity have been coming in from our compatriots in Ethiopia and Europe. The Union of Ethio pian Students in Europe is in the process of mobilizing its resources to counteract this latest offensive against ESANA.

Special mention should be made of the immense solidarity the Black community has expressed with our movement. In all those communities where even a minimum of publicity was achieved, Black brothers and sisters have enthusiastically given us every form of aid. Radical groups have also been of help. For example, Mexican-American friends from the West coast made a contribution of \$100, as soon as they heard of the imprisonment of the first group of ESANA members.

As we mentioned earlier, all or parts of the press coverage of these developments will soon be made available to all of you. Extensive coverage has already appeared in such publications as the GUARDIAN, BLACK PANTHER, and MUHAMMED SPEAKS. Radio station WBAI which is extensively heard on the West coast and the New York area will carry a two hour program on Ethiopia and our Movement. The BBC will shortly broadcast a special program on the same issue. All ESANA members should follow these reports.

Finally we want to stress that we

In order to better coordinate the work arising from these developments, the Executive Council has set an interim Steering Committee consisting of the following five people.

> 1) Andreas Eshete..... Organizational Affairs 338 Orange Street New Haven, Conn.

2) Ahmed Kellow.....Finances

3) Alem Habtu....Legal & Finances 110 Morningside Dr. (#55) New York, N.Y. 10027 212 - 663-5465

4) Melesse Ayalew......Press and Publicity same as #3

5) Dess Rahmato......Coordinator 24 A Agassiz St. Cambridge, Mass. 02140

Nothing is more sacred than the liberation of our people. Let us carry the struggle undaunted.

Fraternally,

July 27, 1969

The Executive Council

Write cheques for: ESUNA Defense Fund-A. Habtu

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Persecution of Ethiopian Students

Ethiopian students are being persecuted by the US government for demonstrations against Haile Selassie who came to Washington to beg for more money and weapons to further oppress our people.

POVERTY, DISEASE AND OPPRESSION CHARACTERIZE ETHIOPIA TODAY

- 1. 98% of the Ethiopian people cannot read and write.
- 2. More than 60% of Ethiopia's infants die before the age of one.
- 3. The average Ethiopian earns \$35 per year.
- 4. a) During student uprising last March more than 20 students were killed by the Ethiopian police.
- b) Two dozen students and young people have been sentenced to jail terms ranging from 6 months to 7½ years.
- c) More than 2,000 students were at one point put in concentration camps.
- 5. The vast majority of peasants are landless and must, by law, pay 75% of their income to the landlords.
- 6. The puppet regime of Haile Selassie enjoys the support of US imperialism. In turn, the US maintains, on Ethiopian soil, its largest military base in Africa.

 THE STRUGGLE

Ethiopian students all over the world are fighting against Haile Selassie's dictatorship and US imperialism, both of which exploit and enslave the people of Ethiopia.

NOTHING IS MORE SACRED THAN THE LIBERATION OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

ESANA

PUBLIC STATEMENT US Government Persecutes Ethiopian Students in the US The Ethiopian Students' Association in North America (ESANA) is a branch of the World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students. It has a membership of 700 students, residing in the United States, Canada and Mexico. It is the only organization of Ethiopian students in North America,

ESANA opposes the feudal, oppressive regime of Haile Selassie and the neo-colonization of Ethiopia by the United States. It supports all genuine liberation movements in Africa, Afro-America, Asia and Latin America.

On the occasion of Haile Selassie's visit to Washington, D.C., on July 7, 1969, ESANA sought to make the real situation of the oppressed people of Ethiopia know, to the outside world, especially to black people everywhere.

As a result of a series of demonstrations, the US police arrested a total of 25 Ethiopian students on charges ranging from "burglary" to "threatening to do bodily harm to Haile Selassie". The bell for the 25 students was set at \$49,000. The US government continues to presecute these students on behalf of its puppet regime in Ethiopia.

Two well-known lawyers, Conrad Lynn and William Kunstler, have agreed to defend the students in US courts. Their action is typical of the solidarity expressed by many Black people and other progressive groups in the United States.

It is clear that a large amount of money will be required to defend the 25 Ethiopian students. Consequently ESANA has set up a Defense Fund. ESANA hopes that all sympathetic individuals and groups will express their support by publicizing the political persecution of Ethiopian students, organizing fund-raising events, and sending contributions to ESANA's Defense Fund.

ESANA

On March 2°, 1°0° ESANA members liberated the Ethiopian regime's embassy in Washington for over 4 hours on behalf of the people of Ethiopia. It addits to its symbolic meaning, this action was taken in order to familiarize the American people and international public opinion with the real oppressive situation in Ethiopia which the Haile Selassie regime and U.S. neo-colonialism naintain. The following news story, written by a black reporter, is the most accurate report that appeared in the U.S. press:

WASHINGTO POST - Washington DC March 30, 1963.

ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY SEIZED BY 50. Be Carl Sims

About 50 Ethiopian students yesterday occupied the Ethiopian Embassy building at 2134 Kalonama Rd. N.W. to protest what they called the "brutally oppressive policies of the Haile Selassie government".

Specifically, a spokesman said, they were protesting the "killing of students in a provincial town in Ethiopia during the first week in February while they were staging a peaceful demonstration".

The students said they are members of the Ethiopian Students Association in North America. They called newsmen at about 2:30 pm from the Embassy and said they intended to stay until the Ambassador relayed a list of grievances to the home government. However, they left at 7 pm without incident, vowing to return.

A spokesman for the State Department said the United States government

was aware of the takeover, but officials at the Embassy had not asked police to make arrests. About two dozen police were stationed outside the building at about 6 pm. The protesters were warned that they would be risking arrest if they stayed.

Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Minasse Haile was not there and could not be reached for comment. Capt. Shirley S. O'Neill of the 13th Precinct said he was waiting for Embassy officials to decide if they wanted to take action against the students.

The protestors said they were from colleges in the Eastern United States and were acting in the name of more than 600 student members of the Association.

A spokesman said, "We are certain that the struggle of the Ethiopian students to free Ethiopia from Emperor Haile Selassie's reactionary, oppressive and neo-colonial rule will triumph". The students charged the United States with supporting the regime.

The spokesman said that yesterday's demonstration would be repeated at a later time.

As the following articles reveal, the Embassy was clearly afraid of another invasion. They know that ESANA's accusations are justified, and that their only resort is to use force, either blatantly or in the hidden form known as "criminal proceedings". Their arrest of the students is actually in indictment of their regime. Since neither of these regimes is honest enough or secure enough to admit to political acts, they charged the students with "burglary". This preposterous charge may hold in the courts, but it carries no weight with the American or Ethiopian people.

WASHINGTON POST - Washington DC Tuesday, July 8, 1969.

STUDENTS RANSACK CHANCERY IN PROTEST OF SELASSIE VISIT -

SELASSIE FOES HIT CHANCERY: 14 ARRESTED.

Two groups of demonstrators claiming to be Ethiopian students ransacked the Ethiopian chancery and demonstrated across the street from the White House yesterday in protest against Emperor Haile Selassie, here on a state visit.

The Emperor was not at the chancery at 2134 Kalorama Rd. N.W. when the incident took place. His arrival had been delayed by bad weather and a scheduled welcoming ceremony at the White House was postponed until today by President Nixon.

Police arrested 14 of the demonstrators after they overan a two-man guard outside the chancery, kicked in the door, and ran through the two-story building smashing windows and crockery and overturning furniture.

Neither Ambassador Dr. Minasse Haile nor First Secretary Ghebeyehou Mekbib was in the building at the time, police said.

The second group marched peacefully on Pennsylvania Avenue later yesterday, carrying signs and handing out pamphlets that accused the Emperor of repression, extravagance and "exploitation".

They left peacefully soon after the Emperor entered Blair House at 6:10 pm, but vowed to return this morning. Their spokesman, who refused to be identified, promised that "everywhere he goes, we will be".

Capt. Shirley O'Neill of the 13th Precinct said he had assigned two officers to guard the chancery in anticipation of a demonstration. In a demonstration at the chancery in March, students had broken down the front door and caused heavy damage.

The students arrived there at about 3:30 pm, marched peacefully for five minutes and then suddenly ran through the two police guards and into the building. Some carried rocks under their shirts and used them to smash windows, police said.

When police reinforcements arrived, they arrested four persons outside the chancery and 10 more inside. The rest fled, police said.

Bloodstains were seen on the chancery sidewalks, and two students were injured during the break-in. Alem Segde Habtu was treated at D.C. General Hospital for a cut foot and Habti Kitessa was treated for a minor head injury. No embassy personnel were reported to have been injured.

Two hours later, a second group, claiming membership in the Worldwide Ethiopian Student Movement, gathered near the White House to demonstrate against the Emperor. The group, consisting of 17 men and one girl, said they had come from several universities and said they represented an estimated 300 Ethiopians now studying in the U.S.

Metropolitan and U.S. Park Police invoked the rule that they could not march within 500 feet of Blair House, but permited the students to march in a circle on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Chanting "Down with the tyrant" and "Haile Selassie must go," the demonstrators, clad in casual dress, continued their protest until about 6:30 pm.

Some carried signs in Amharic, others in English. Among the latter were: "Feudalism, no; People's democracy, yes: and "The Lion" to the Zoo". The last reference was apparently to one of the Emperor's titles, The Lion of Judah.

A pamphlet handed out by the students accused the Selassie regime of imprisoning students in labor camps, torturing political prisoners, massacring peasants, breaking strikes and arbitrarily raising taxes.

The United States, the pamphlet charged, "is fulfilling its bargain to suppress all opposition to Haile Selassie's reactionary regime in return for maintaining its most important military base in Africa on Ethiopian soil". The U.S. Army maintains a major base in Friiopia.

All but two of the arrested students were charged with felonies. Those seized inside the chancery were charged with first degree burglary; two of the four arrested outside were charged with assault on a police officer. The other two are charged with unlawful entry.

Charged with burglary and destroying property in the disturbance at the chancery were: Alem Segede Habtu, 25, of New York City: Shilru Tedia, 27, of Ontario, Can.; Wonduassen Hailu, 26, of Madison, Wisc.; Worlui Asmamaw, 30, of Kingston, R.I.; Tamrat George, 24, of New York City; Kebede Wubishet, 24, of Monomona, Wisc.; Melisse Ayabne, 26, of New York City; Mammo Gethahun Muchie, 19, of New York City: Alula Hinet Hindaru of New Plats, N.Y.; and a 17-year-old juvenile.

Charged with assault on a police officer and unlawful entry were Yeshiterla Tsehai, 22, of New Fall, N.Y., and Habti Kitessa, 28, of 1830 Columbia

Road, N.W. Haili Menkorios, 23, of Waltham, Mass., was charged with unlawful entry and Dessabgm Rahmato, 31, of Cambridge, Mass., was charged with burglary.

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR - Washington, D.C. - July 8, 1969.

14 SELASSIE FOES SEIZED IN PRO - TEST AT CHANCERY.

The Ethiopian Chancery was invaded and 14 young demonstrators were arrested yesterday afternoon as embassy officials were awaiting the arrival of Emperor Haile Selassie at Andrews Air Force Base.

District police were watching the embassy on Wyoming Avenue NW and the chancery at 2134 Kalorama Road NW when about 27 demonstrators appeared at the chancery carrying signs denouning the Ethiopian government and U.S. military presence in - and assistance to - the country.

As two policemen were talking with the demonstrators, the group suddenly ran for the building. A side door was broken in and, despite the officers' efforts, more than a dozen of the demonstrators entered the building, according to police.

The demonstrators identified themselves as members of the Ethiopian Students Association in North America.

An Ethiopian flag, a portrait of the emperor and furniture, were destroyed, police said.

When police reinforcements arrived, four demonstrators who had been prevented from entering the charcery were arrested and placed in a police wagon. Ten more were held inside by police until 5:10 pm when the first secretary, Berhanu Dinka, arrived.

Those arrested inside the embassy and charged with burglary and destroying movable property were Alem Segede Habtu, 25, of New York City; Shilbu Tedla, 27, of Ontario, Can.; Wond-wassen Hauli, 26, of Madison, Wis.; Workie Asonasnaw, 30, of Kingston, R.I.; Tamrat George, 24, of New York City; Kebede Wubsmiet, 24, of Monomona, Wis.; Melasse Ayalew, 26, of New York City; Alula Hinet Hindaru, of New Paltz, N.Y.; Mammo Muchie, 19, New York City, and a 17-year-old juvenile.

Arrested outside the embassy and charged with assault on a police officer and unlawful entry was Habte Kitessa, 28, of 1830 Colombia Road N.W. Charged with assault were Tschar Teshitila, of New Paltz, N.Y., and Dessa Bn Rahnato, 31, of Cambridge, Mass.

Ten more demonstrators were arrested by Park Police shortly before noon today in front of Lafayette Parl across from the White House. They were charged with disorderly conduct.

When Selassie, who was late arriving because of weather conditions, finally appeared, another group of about 50 demonstrators was waiting on Pennsylvania Avenue. The demonstrators shouted "Down with the tyrant" and "Haile Selassie must go" as he entered Blair House.

President Nixon welcomed him this morning as a record-setting guest.

"I'm the fourth President of the United States to receive you here as ar official visitor," Nixon told him.

Replying to the welcome, Haile Selassie expressed appreciation for American support of the Organization for African Unity. in which he is a leading figure. This morning at the Court of General Sessions, charges against Kitessa were reduced to simple assault and the charges against Rahnato and one additional defendant, who was unidentified, were dropped. Arraignment for those still charged was scheduled later.

The State Department announced toda that apologies for the assault on the Ethiopian Embassy had been extended both here last night and in Addis Ababa,

Once again the New York Times reveals itself for what it really is -- a tool of American Imperialism. Even the small town American papers give a more "balanced" account of what happened and why ESANA members penetrated the Embassy. This brief account is typical of the space the 'Times' reserves for "news that is fit to print":

THE NEW TORK TIMES Tuesday, July 8, 1969

WASHINGTON, July 7 (UPI) - Emperor Haile Selassie's arrival tonight for talks with President Nixon tomorrow was interrupted by Ethiopian students who took over their country's chancery and picketed across the street from the White House.

About 50 students, who said they wer members of the Ethiopian Student Association, chanted "Down With Haile Selassie" and carried signs critical of the Emperor's regime.

Policemen kept them about half a block from Blair House, the residence across from the White House where Emperor Selassie is staying. He apparently did not notice the pickets. Earlier in the day, about 35 students stormed the Ethiopian chancery, the Embassy's business building two miles from the White House. Fourteen students were arrested inside the building.

Mr. Nixon and the Emperor will begin their discussions shortly after formal welcoming ceremonies tomorrow morning on the White House lawn.

The press agencies also refuse to print any statements of ESANA. They play up the Eritrean Movement in an attempt to pretend that Eritrea is the only place where peasants are revolting against the feudal dictatorship over which Haile Selassie presides. Haile Selassie did not come because he was "anxious over the Nigeria-Biafra War"; he came because he wanted money and arms to suppress the Ethiopian people even turther;

REUTEURS PRESS SERVICE PRESS RELEASE of JULY 8, 1969

Washington, July 8 (Reuteurs) -- The U.S. has applyinged to Ethiopia for an attack on its embassy here by dissident Ethiopian students just before Emperor Haile Selassie arrived at the start of a four-day visit.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said Tuesday apologies were sent to the embassy and to the Ethiopian Government in Addis Ababa and that the U.S. Government offered to pay for the damage incurred in the incident Monday night.

Selassie Tuesday began a round of official talks by meeting President Nixon who hailed him as one of the great leaders of African unity.

The President, in his formal greeting, also paid tribute to Ethiopia's econorite and social advances under the Emperor's 53-year rule.

The Emperor was reportedly anxious to discuss the special problems of the African continent and the continuing Nigerian civil war during his talks with the President and key Administration officials, including Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird.

Before the Ethiopian leader drove from nearby Blair House, the official government guest mansion where he is staying, police removed a small number of student demonstrators from in front of the White House. The incident delayed his arrival and greeting by Nixon by about 10 minutes.

Fourteen Ethiopian students were arrested Monday night during the demonstrations at the embassy. Ten of the students -- who rampaged through the building smashing windows and damaging furniture -- were charged burglary and destroying embassy property.

The four others involved in the second demonstration in four months against Selassie at the embassy were charged with unlawful entry. Two of them also were charged with assaulting a police officer.

Fourteen Ethiopian students were under arrest here today following noisy demonstrations at their embassy last night to protest a state visit here by Emperor Haile Selassie.

The 76-year-old Selassie will be officially welcomed by President Nixon in

reremonies which were postponed yesterday because the ruler of the African Kingdom was delayed due to bad weather.

Ten of the students -- who rampaged through the chancery last night smashing windows and damaging furniture -- were charged with burglary and destroying embassy property.

The four others involved in the demonstration -- the second against the Emperor at the embassy in four months -- were charged with unlawful entry. Two of them faced additional charges of assaulting a police officer.

The violence erupted a few hours before Selassie arrived for his fou in 1931.

Nixon had planned to greet Selassie on the White House lawn Monday afternoon but Selassie's plane arrived nearly two hours behind schedule -- too late for the formal welcoming ceremony.

Selassie, on a five-day official visit, is expected to seek increased American investment in his country.

The embassy attack came barely three weeks after an Eritrean was killed while preparing a bomb attack on the Ethiopian embassy in Rome.

Three young Eritreans were arrested in Karachi, Pakistan, June 18 after a sten gun attack on an Ethiopian airliner. There were no casualties.

Eritreans are campaigning against the rule of Selassie and demanding independence for Eritrea, an Italian colony before it became part of Ethiopia in 1936.

As the following two reports reveal, Establishment newspapers try to trivialize the Student Movement by pretending that the students are merely fighting for better student conditions. They imply that Ethiopian students are discontent because they are not sufficiently rewarded with better jobs and pay. But the Ethiopian students are not mercenaries. They are not struggling to maintain their privileged position. but to support the just demands of the peasants and workers of Ethiopia. Ethiopian students do not want privileges; they want the emancipation of their people. Their struggle is at one with the struggle of the Ethiopian masses:

WASHINGTON EVENING STAR Washington, DC - July 9, 1969.

TEN ANTI-SELASSIE STUDENTS FINED IN WHITE HOUSE PROTEST.

Ten students, nine of them from Ethiopia, paid \$25 fines yesterday for staging an illegal demonstration after being arrested when they picketed the White House to protest the visit of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie.

Though they said they hadn't intended to violate any law, the students were convicted of disorderly conduct by Chief Judge Harold H. Greene of the Court of General Sessions.

Greene gave each of them a choice between the \$25 fine or serving five days in jail.

The convictions stemmed from a guideline established recently by the U.S. Court of Appeals allowing Park Police to require 15-days notice before a protest at the White House.

UNHEEDED ORDER - Lt. Milton R. Lomax told Greene the group hadn't

given any previous notice and that it was arrested after failing to heed his order to disband.

The students said they felt their demonstration was legal because they had staged a similar one Monday without being ordered away. During both, they chanted, "Haile Selassie must go!" and carried anti-Selassie placards.

Like another group of Ethiopian students arrested Monday after the Ethiopian Chancery here was damaged, the students were protesting the Selassie regime, which they consider to be tyrannical.

"We felt it was our duty to show that there are people in Ethiopia who oppose Haile Selassie," said Abraham Bekels 20, an Ethiopian who attends Rutgers University

Meanwhile, the protesters arrested at the Chancery, 2314 Kalorama Rd. NW had their initial court appearance at General Sessions yesterday.

Judge Fred L. McIntyre set bail at \$2,000 for nine of them who allegedly vandalized the chancery, causing what police estimated at \$10,000 damage. Each is charged with two felonies, burglary and destroying property.

Four others arrested outside the chancery were formally charged with illegally congregating within 500 feet of an embassy, a misdemeanor.

WORLDWIDE COMPLAINTS - Two of the four were also charged with another misdemeanor, simple assault, because they allegedly scuffled with police. One of them, a Washington resident, was released on personal bond and the others were held under \$1,000 bond.

The four are scheduled for trial July 17, the same day preliminary hearings are slated for the nine facing felony charges. The demonstrations against Selassie were part of worldwide complaints by Ethiopian students.

The emperor was responsible for opening his ancient kingdom to modern development and sending some of its brightest youths abroad for education. But then he hesitated to give opportunities and authority to the rising generation.

This created a feeling of frustration in Ethiopia, which was only partially alleviated by the promotion of some bright young men in February. Student demonstrations began then in the capital Addis Ababa, and went on through March.

Washington DC - July 9, 1969.

Protest Haile Selassie Visit - 10 MORE ETHIOPIANS JAILED.

Ten Ethiopian students were arrested across the street from the White House today while protesting the arrival of Emperor Haile Selassie at an official welcoming ceremony with President Nixon.

All ten were charged with disorderly conduct, police said.

The Emperor was being driven from nearby Blair House. When his limousine pulled into the White House driveway, the students began to shout and wave banners. Park police said the demonstrators refused to obey orders to disperse.

Lt. M. R. Lomax, said there was some "scuffling" during the arrests. "They wouldn't even allow us to talk to them to allow us to tell them what the regulations are" he said.

Yesterday, about 35 persons stormed

past two District police guards, broke into the Ethiopian chancery and smashed windows and furniture two hours before Emperor Haile Selassie arrived for a state visit with President Nixon.

Ambassador Dr. Minasse Haile and First Secretary Ghebeyehou Mekbib were not in the building at the time.

Police said the two DC police officers had been assigned to guard the chancery in anticipation of a protest against the emperor. The demonstrators marched peacefully for about two minutes before suddenly racing past the two officers. Police reinforcements arrested 10 persons inside the building and charged them with first degree burglary. Four others were arrested outside. Two were charged with assault on a police officer and two with unlawful entry.

In a separate, peaceful demonstration later, about 50 persons shouted Haile Selassie must go" and "down with the tyrant" as Emperor Selassie arrived at Blair House.

Police kept the demonstrators
about a half block away and the emperor
apparently did not notice them when he
arrived at about 6 pm.

The following article is written to arouse the sentiment of brainwashed Americans against the so-called wanton destruction of private property, It is interesting to note that the United States was so anxious to extend its apologies to the Ethiopian government that it broadcast the news about the destruction of the Embassy over Voice of America continually for two days:

THE NEW YORK TIMES Wednesday, July 9, 1969

U.S. CONCERNED OVER VIOLENCE AT EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON by William J. Robbins

Washington, July ? -- The State Department expressed concern today over the rising rate of violence against foreign embassies and embassy personnel in Washington while announcing that apologies had been extended for the latest incident, the ransacking of the Ethiopian chancery.

Incidents of violence against the embassies and their staffs, which totaled 34 in 1965, 52 in 1966, and 195 in the 22-month period from Jan. 1'67, to the end of October, 1963, soared to 261 in the first six months of 1959, Robert J. McCloskey, State Department spokesman, said at a press briefing.

He cited the figures in underscoring the importance of the appointment of John B. Layton, Washington's retiring Chief of Police, to study the problem of protecting foreign diplomatic establishments.

Mr. Layton was named last Thursday to the \$24,300-a-year post of special assistant to the chief of protocol, Emil Mosbacher Jr.

Mr. McCloskey also noted that the Treasury Department had proposed legislation to expand the White House police force and allow it to take over the protection problem from the metropolitan police, which he said lacked the manpower to cope with diplomatic security. Mr. Layton is expected to manage the security detail, which would operate under the Secret Service.

The apologies were given both here and in Addis Ababa for the ransacking of the Ethiopian Chancery last night by a group of demonstrators who said they were Ethiopian students.

The group overran a two-man police guard, kicked in the door of the chancery at 2134 Kalorama Rd NW and invaded the building, smashing windows and crockery and overturning furniture. The police arrested 14 of the demonstrators.

The United States will pay for the damage resulting from that attack, Mr. McCloskey said in his State Department briefing.

The attack came as Emperor Haile Selassie was scheduled to arrive for a state visit, but the Emperor had been delayed by bad weather and was not present in the chancery at the time. Because of the delay, a scheduled welcoming ceremony at the White House was postponed until today.

President Nixon received Emperor Selassie this morning. The two heads of state spent an hour and 45 minutes in what a White House spokesman called "a general exchange of views".

The private talks followed a welcoming ceremony in the White House East Room, attended by about 150 persons.

While the two leaders met, protesters marched outside shouting "Down with the tyrant," among other epithets. The demonstrators were believed to belong to the same group that stormed the chancery last night.

The next article is included because it is typical of New York Times reporting. Whenever they get the opportunity, they try to undermine the Liberation Movement and extol their puppet dictators instead. Again they try to perpetuate the myth of "Haile Selassie, the Liberator of his people". Typical of their psychological reporting, they attribute the Emperor's dictatorial practices to the loss of his wife and four children. But the fact that the people have made it increasingly more difficult for him to act without force is not revealed:

THE NEW YORK TIMES - July 9, 1969

REDOUBTABLE ETHIOPIAN EMPEROR Haile Selassie - by William Borders.

Welcoming Haile Selassie to the White House yesterday, President Nixon said: "No visit to this house has greater historic significance."

Wherever he goes the 76-year-old Emperor of Ethiopia seems to suggest a sense of history, not only because he has held power for half a century, but also because he is the country's 255th sovereign, in a line that stretches, according to legend, back to Solomon and Sheba.

The Emperor, whose titles include Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Elect of God, and King of Kings, is criticized by some of his 24 million countrymen as an autocrat whose reign is as anachronistic as the two chained lions that stalk outside his office in his capital, Addis Ababa, as symbols of his power.

Advances are cited -- But others in the ruggedly mountainous empire in Northeastern Africa point to the social and economic advances in which he has

led his primitive peoples, bringing Ethiopia slowly toward-if not yet fully into-the 20th century.

Even now no more than 10 percent of the Ethiopians can read, and the average annual income is \$65. But outside his country the wiry 5-foot-2-inch Emperor is a storied figure, with a reputation for courage that dates to a dramatic appeal for help that he made 33 years ago.

Fascist Italy had invaded Ethiopia and driven the Emperor into exile in Europe, where he unsuccessfully brought his case to the faltering League of Nations.

With an aloof dignity that has come to be regarded as characteristic, Haile Selassic told the 52 member nations that the matter before them in Geneva was "a question of collective security, of the very existence of the League".

"In a word, it is international morality that is at stake," the Emperor warned. But the world powers spurned his plea and he went into exile in Britain.

He felt vindicated -- Years later, when the United Nations acted against aggression in South Korea, Haile Selassie said he had been vindicated, explaining:

"We felt that nowhere can the call for aid against aggression be refused. It is either a universal principle or it is no principle at all."

Haile Selassie's use of the royal "we" in that statement was typical, a symbol of the high station that has marked his life. Another is his maroon Rolls-Royce, before which his subjects prostrate themselves.

He was born on July 23, 1892, a cousin of the Emperor Menelik but not in direct line for the throne. As

Prince Tafari Makonnen he was appointed regent. After a period of political infighting he was proclaimed King in 1923 and Emperor two years later.

As Emperor he assumed the name Haile Selassie, which means "power of the Holy Trinity" - Ethiopians are Coptic Christians - and began a bloody fight to retain his throne. After an unsuccessful coup in 1932 he had the roads leading to the capital lined with the corpses of rebels who had been hanged.

More Absolute. More Lonely -- In recent years, the Emperor's control has grown more absolute as his personal life has grown more lonely, with the death of his wife of 50 years and of four of his six children.

Public attitudes are changing a little, too. This year, in rare open defiance, students demonstrating against him closed down some high schools and curtailed operations at Haile Selassie I University. But the stately ruler's position remains as it was described in the Constitution proclaimed in 1955:

"By virtue of His Imperial Blood, as well as by the anointing He has received, the person of the Emperor is sacred. His dignity is inviolable and His power indisputable".

The Peace Corps program is clearly a program of indoctrination, intelligence work and hypocritical humanitarianism which the U.S. Government maintains in many "Third World" countries. The following report testifies to the fact that there is a growing opposition among the African peoples to the so-called Peace

Corps program. In Ethiopia, where the educational system is run by Americans, one of the most popular demands is the elimination of the Peace Corps program. But, unlike the government in Tanzania which got rid of the Peace Corps program, the irresponsible regime of Haile Selassic has neither the wish nor the ability to free Ethiopia from U.S. hegemony in the educational system;

WASHINGTON POST - July 10, 1969.

PEACE CORPS IN TROUBLE IN AFRICA - By Stanley Meisler (Los Angeles Times). --- Peace Corps volunteers have found their reception in Ethicpia and Tanzania to be somewhat less than friendly this year.

Tourteen windows have been broken in the Peace Corps office in Addis Ababa. In the province of Ethiopia, unruly students are shouting "Yankee" at their volunteer teachers, while in Tanzania the government seems to have decided to let all its Peace Corps volunteers go without replacing them.

It would be wrong to exaggerate the significance of a few stones or a few epithets or the decision of a single government but it is still a fact that the Peace Corps has run into significant difficulties in Africa this year.

Considering the volatile politics of Africa, the Peace Corps has steered fairly clear of trouble in its eight years there. Since 1961, more than 6000 volunteers have complete! tours in Africa. As of last March I, there w 2639 volunteers in 22 African counsmostly teachers.

Before this year, the Peace Corps had found itself thrown out only by African countries that had relatively minor programs. In each case, the Peace Corps was the victim of the whims of others.

This year the Peace Corps has been upset in two of its most important programs in Africa - those in Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Ethiopia has always seemed a show-case for Peace Corps teaching in Africa. The first 2 l volunteers who arrived in Ethiopia in 1962 doubled the number of degree-holding secondary school teachers in the country. These volunteers helped make it possible for Ethiopia to increase its number of secondary school pupils.

But the Peace Corps has been caught this year in the turmoil that has swept the Ethiopian educational system, Since January, student strikes and demonstrations have disrupted the system, allowing only a handful of schools to operate normally. One of the student demands has been the removal of the Peace Corps (incomplete).

This story from the Woman's Page of the WASHINGTON POST reveals that Haile Selasse is not the giant in diplomatic circles that he used to be. His "charm" and splendor are clearl on the wane. He may be a useful tool for the Imperialists, but his person has ceased to be so sacred:

WASHINGTON POST - July 10, 1959

EMPEROR AND MOON by D. McCardle

I few wives from the diplomatic maps curtised to the Emperor of thiopia, Haile Selassie, last night at a reception at the Shoreham Hotel, but all the wives from the corps wanted to embrace Secretary of State William P. Rogers after the news he brought them.

Secretary Rogers, the top ranking American at the reception given for the Emperor by Ethiopian Ambassador and Mrs. Minasse Haile, was spreading the word that wives of ambassadors can join their husbands to watch the Apollo 11 moonshot at Cape Kennedy next Wednesday.

Invitations to the diplomats went out some time ago. Engraved bids to wives go into the mail today from the State Department's Office of Protocol.

Secretary Rogers had had his arm twisted by the ladies at a dinner given in his honor at the Embassy of india last week.

"Why can't we wives go, too?" several had asked him.

"I'll see what I can do, " promised Rogers.

So U.S. Chief of Protocol Emil Mosbacher worked it out at the Secretary's request, ambassadors and their wives will take off for Florida from Andrews Air Force Base in a jet seating 200 passengers at 4:20 am on July 16. They will be flown back late that night.

One of those most elated by the news was the Marquesa de Merry Del Val, wife of the Spanish Ambassador. She had been among the few women who gave a discreet curtsy to the Emperor as she went through the line. She was on tiptoe with excitement over the chance to see the Apollo 11 astronauts take off for the moon.

Ambassador Agha Hilaly, of Pakistan, went in search of his wife as soon as he heard the news. He also had news of his own. He has been asked to stay here in Washington for another two years. He had expected to leave this summer.

The interest created by Rogers' announcement was so intense that few noted the absence of some top U.S. figures expected at the party. But, finally, some one remembered.

"Isn't President Nixon coming tonight?" asked one.

"He never attends these parties," was the reply. "He wasn't invited It's his wish".

Then the guests looked around for Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, who had been invited, according to an Ethiopian Embassy official.

But the Vice President phoned from Burning Tree Golf Club at 6:20 pm that he would not be able to make the 6:30 to 8:30 pm reception. He had just finished playing the course with "an astronaut" and was taking the latter home to dinner.

Invitations had gone out so late for the reception that many of the 600 asked could not make it.

The Emperor stayed for an hour and then left without sampling the delicious buffet. He missed meeting with Mayor and Mrs. Walter Washington who came very late. Under Secretary of State Elliot Richardson arrived late, too.

Actor Lee Bowman, who is now a radio and television consultant for the GOP Senatorial Campaign Committee, was being spotted as a celebrity.

America prides itself on its various freedoms, the most precious one being the alleged freedom of speech. However, since the capitalists own and control all of the major press services, TV stations, radio and publishing companies, seldom does an unbiased news story reach the public. A few student groups do manage to print their own papers. One such progressive voice is the LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE, the radical students' answer to UPI, AP, Reuters and the rest. Here is their article on the liberation of the embassy on July 7, 1969:

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE - Press Release - July 10, 1969

(Editor's note: More than 2,000 Ethiopian students have been sent to labor camps, peasants killed, and workers imprisoned in a wave of revolt in America's feudal stronghold in Africa. There has been but passing mention of this in the establishment press. The following articles on Ethiopia are therefore very important, and editors should make an effort to print them.)

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS SAY PUT THE LION OF JUDAH IN THE ZOO - by Marilyn Salzman Webb

WASHINGTON DC (LNS) — Sirens wailed in the distance and then grew near. A procession of Cadillac limousines rounded the corner of 17th Street and wheeled slowly onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Making a U-turn as all traffic was stopped, the procession came to a halt in front of Blair House, the White House guest home. Ethiopian

and American flags lined all nearby streets. Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia waved from the back seat of the first limousine. A tiny dog cuddled in his arms looked at the crowd as Selassie compulsively patted its head. Holding the ratlike animal, he got out of the car, saluted some imaginary figure, clicked his heels and walked up the red carpeted steps. Like other dictators, he was given a lavish welcome to the District of Columbia, with honor guards, Secret Service, police parades, and a state dinner.

An hour before, 50 members of the Ethiopian Student Association in North America had stormed the Embassy of Ethiopia to oppose the Selassie dictatorship. Using tactics that the U.S. student movement could learn from. the students approached the embassy in two groups. One group walked together holding signs and flags, while the other was dispersed, later to appear en masse from nearby bushes. As the flag-bearing group approached the embassy, they were told by cops they couldn't demonstrate within 500 feet of embassy grounds. When they replied that they were not demonstrating, but attempting to speak with embassy officials, cops allowed them to walk up to the door.

They rang the bell of the locked embassy, and then broke rank, when, as they had expected, they received no answer. They kicked in the glass door and shoved sticks and kicked their feet through the window. While the startled cops called for help, the students ripped open screens, threw rocks at windows, and stormed into the embassy to destroy Haile Selassie's photograph and other paraphernalia.

their buddies in tow.

Fourteen were arrested, but most managed to escape. Several were injured as DC police entered the Ethiopian Embassy and beat Ethiopian students protesting against their own government.

Selassie came to ask Nixon for money and arms, to discuss the largest U.S. African base (which is on Ethiopian soil) and generally to buoy up the foreign financial base on which is power rests.

As Selassie arrived at Blair House, the Ethiopian students were gather to "greet" him. "Down with Haile Selassie they chanted loudly, while signs challenged "U.S. Bombs and U.S. Planes are Killing People in Ethiopia as Well as in Vietnam" and "End Oppression of Students, Workers and Peasants".

Their leaflets demanded that the U.S. government evacuate U.S. military and para-military bases and personnel from Ethiopia, terminate its aid programs to the dictatorial and oppressive government of Haile Selassie, and put an end to material and moral support for the Selassie dictatorship and its oppression of the people of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is a country where most inhabitants are poor. The per capita income is \$35 per year, and the illiteracy rate is over 95%. In an age of atomic weapons, Ethiopia remains a feudal nation, where a peasant is required by law to surrender 75% of his produce to the feudal landlord. In addition, the peasants have become victims of rising taxes levied by force and coercion. This year, intense and widespread uprisings broke out in protest against a new tax increment

proposed by Selassie's regime to sidestep its most severe economic crisis in recent history. While peasants pay for the regime with starvation, Selassie and his officials live in regal splendor.

The student movement confronted Selassie's regime with a set of demands in early March 1969. These included an end to the waste of public funds on lavish entertainment of foreign guests and visits abroad by the Ethiopian court and its officials. The students also opposed prohibitive school and examination fees, insisted that officials responsible for the pathetic condition of Ethiopian education be removed from office, and demanded a public trial of all officials responsible for arbitrary killings and injuries of students and other citizens.

In response to demonstrations around these demands, all schools and colleges throughout Ethiopia were closed. Nineteen students were killed, more than 2,000 have been imprisoned in labor camps, and scores have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to five years for alleged criminal acts against the state.

Additional students and young people are constantly arrested under a detention act similar to the one in South Africa, whereby any citizen can be imprisoned for six months without a trial. Political prisoners such as these have reportedly been left on ice and in stagnant water for days on end, dragged by cars over pebble roads, lashed while hanging by their feet, and subjected to torture by electric shock.

Students maintain that while Selassie is visiting the U.S., his armed forces continue to attack dispossessed peasants, who are revolting against feudal exploitation in various provinces, including Baile, Eritrea, Sidamo, Gojjam, Arussi

and Harar.

They report that whole villages have been wiped out and their inhabitants massacred by air bombardments from American planes. Peasants are arbitrarily shot or hanged, while workers on strike for wage increases and the right to have labor organizations have been dismissed, imprisoned or murdered.

Students from the Ethiopian Students Association in North America continued to protest Selassie's stay at Blair House until most had been arrested by the end of the second day of their actions, July 8. They are in D. C. Jail on charges of disorderly conduct, assaulting a police officer, destruction of property and other assorted "crimes".

The students said they hoped that those Americans concerned with struggles against imperialism would speak out in support of the Ethiopian life and disath struggle. "Ethiopia is the next listnam", one student maintained. "Air, advisory and troop build-ups there are at the same level that they were in the early years of the Vietnam — This only a matter of time time before auditional in litary support is given".

A LOYAL PUPPET - Washington DC (1...S) -- Haile Selassie has proven that he has a fine gift for subtly flattering the U.S. rulers. When he attended the funeral of John F. Kennedy in 1953, he paid a visit to the White House. According to William Manchester in The Death of a President, Selassie declared "that Ethiopia needed no new Kennedy monument because the President's memory was enshrined forever in the work of the Peace Corps".

This article is noteworthy because it comes from one of the most reactionary newsweeklies in the United States. Yet. although it does disclose some of the obvious truths about Ethiopia today, it characteristically fails to look at the total situation. No mention is made about the need for a drastic change in the structure of the society. It thereby tries to minimize the problems the country faces, and allows for the typical imperialist ploy of overthrowing an unpopular leader while leaving the government essentially intact. Haile Selassie has certainly proved a useful tool for the imperialists, but to them no one is sacred. They overthrew Diem only to find a more suitable puppet in Ky, and Ky has seen his better days. But they cannot feel the Ethopian students, workers and peasants who know that Haile Selassie is only a man, and it is the entire system -the obsolete feudal structure with its neo-colonialist trappings that has to be overthrown.

NEWSWEEK Magazine, July 14, 1969 ETHIOPIA: Selassie Land

When Haile Selassie arrieves in Washington this week on a four-day state visit, the venerable Ethiopian Emperor will doubtless be received with all the ceremony due the occupant of an ancient throne and the most influential elder statesman in Africa. But if, at 76, the ramrod-stiff little Emperor still remarkably commands the respect of much of the world, there are increasing signs that old age may be presenting him with ever more serious problems at home. For a firsthand look at these problems, Newsweek correspondent Sanford Ungar recently visited Ethiopia. Ungar's report:

In his 38 years as undisputed ruler of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie often proclaimed his intention of leading his country into the twentieth century. And, to be sure, he has made some progress toward that goal. But even a short visit to Ethiopia reveals that Selassie has a long, long way to go. "This country is not even

close to the twentiety century," one student told me. "It's still back in the sixteenth."

There are, of course, some surprisingly twentieth-century trappings. The day I arrieved in Addis Ababa, voters were going to the polls in Ethiopia's fourth general election. Sound trucks broadcast election appeals in Amharic. Posters showed the faces of the 2,000 candidates and their parties' symbols. But the results of the balloting-to fill the 250 seats in the National Assembly-will not be known until September, when the ballot boxes have finally been brought into the capital by every available means of transportation, including muleback.

Nor, for that matter, will the outcome of the election really matter. For any measure passed by the National Assembly can be vetoed by a Senate composed of hereditary nobles and military men. Beyond that, as politically conscious Ethiopians are painfully aware, every decision--from the erection of a new streetlight to how the country casts its vote at the United Nations--is ultimately made by one man: the King of Kings, Elect of God, Conquering Lion of Judah, Emperor of Ethiopia, His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I.

Tourists: What the Emperor says goes-and, on the surface things seem to be going well, Addis Ababa has all the earmarks of a busy and prosperous city. The Addis Ababa Hilton is nearing completion and older hotels are jammed with tourists. The Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa-both headquartered in the Ethiopian capital-are bustling with activity. And many Ethiopians take patriotic pride in the fact that Selassie has an international reputation that is unsullied.

Nevertheless, beneath the surface, allis far from well in Africa's oldest independent nation. In mineral resources and agricultural potential, Ethiopia is supposed to be one of the richest countries in Africa. Yet, ordinary Ethiopians, especially those who live outside Addis

Ababa, lead a life that must be among the most degraded in the world. Everywhere there is disease and dirt and famine. The drinking water is polluted. There is no milk available in stores. The infant-mortality rate is estimated at between 50 and 60 per cent. Ninety-five per cent of the people are illiterate.

No wonder, then, that Ethiopia, despite Selassie's avowed hopes, is a far from happy country. The economy is shaky-ei ially since the closure of the Suez

export its coffee crop to Europe. Politically, there is a serious rebellion afoot in what was once Italian Eritrea. And in Addis, the American-built university has been plagued by some of the most serious student protests to hit the African continent.

Diploma: Haile Selassie is well known for his firm belief in the value of education for his country. In fact, he considers every Ethiopian student to be "his own child" and, to this day, he personally presents every diploma awarded by Haile Selassie I University in Addis. But if most of the students bow and scrape before him, there are many others who make no secret of their belief that the monarchy—and Selassie—must go.

The old man, of course, refuses to accommodate his critics by resigning or permitting himself to be overthrown. Some liberals in Addis place their hope in Selassie"s 52-year-old son, Crown Prince Asfa Wossen, who is supposedly in direct line to succeed to the imperial throne. But the Crown Prince, despite some liberal leanings, is fundamentally an unknown quantity. Should the aged Emperor falter. the odds are that the real inheritors of power will be the military, possibly with Wossen as figure-head. Some Ethiopians would welcome such a prospect. For as an Ethiopian saying goes: 'We don't care. Anything would be better than what we've got."

Perhaps the overwhelming impression one gains from a visit to Ethiopia is of the gap between Selassie's international image, on the one hand, and the realities of Ethiopian life today, on the other. Before I left, one professor took me aside and said with great passion: "The great problem is the halo around this man. To much of the world, the Emperor is a hero. But to me, the halo has long seemed badly tarnished."

The Blace communities in the United States and Canada do not subscribe to the official Ethiopian line that Ethiopians are not Black. They realize that Ethiopians are their brothers and sisters fighting the same battles against the same enemies. The following three articles were written by our Black brothers with this knowledge. The telegram reproduced in The Black Panther contains the message of solidarity sent to the Black Panther Party on the occassion of the convening of the United Front Against Fascism meeting by the Party.

UHURU: Black Community News Service Nontreal, Canada; July 18, 1969 HAILE SELLASIE CHALLENGED BY BLACK MILITANTS

The Washington Conspiracy
During Sellasie"s recent visit in Washington 9.C., about forty Ethiopian students in North America joined by their fellow Black Brothers from different parts of the world-staged a demonstration outside the White House while the tyrant emperor conspired with the chief of his accomplices—the American imperialists. The black militants protested against the tyrants visit in Washington and his unjust rule in Ethiopia. Fourteen fellow brothers were arrested and are still in jail awaiting trial.

The purpose of the Emperor's visit was nothing more than the furtherance of his conspiratorial device with the Nixon Administration against the Ethiopian people. It is to be remembered that the dictator has made it a custom to pay homage to Washington since the Eisenhower rule.

The Challenge

The Challenge of the imperialist monarch by militant young Ethiopians began in Ethiopia itself. Student demonstrations, street riots by the unemployed, and demand by the working class for better working conditions have become a matter of everyday life for about a decade now.

This year alone about five thousand students were arrested--many of whom are still facing trial--and all the universities and high schools throughout the country have been closed down. In their support, the Ethiopian students abroad--again joined by their fellow Black Brothers from Africa, the Caribbean, North and South America and Asia--carried out similar protests in major cities of the world as Ottawa; New York, Washington D.C., Moscow, Stockholm, Paris and London. The Struggle Well Defined

The Struggle is clearly defined. It is against the tyrant monarch, his white imperialist collaborators and his anachronistic feudal system of government.

After half a century of rule, Sellasie is unable to modernize Ethiopia. The standard of living of the people is one of the most degraded in the world. Disease and famine are everyday incidents. The infant mortality rate is 60%. Ninety five percent of the country's twenty million people are illiterate; and 98% are peasants tenants.

The tax payer's money is taken out of the national treasury, transferred into an imperial currency and shipped to the greedy monarch's banks in London, his watch factories in Switzerland, his coffee plantations in Brazil and his summer resorts in Mexico, all of which are run by his racist and imperialist white friends abroad.

The monarchy's collaboration with the white man and the world colonialists and imperialists is not a new phenomenon of its subjugation of the Ethiopian people. The mortgage of the province of Eritrea to Italy in order to get amunition to suppress a peasant revolt, the concessioning of Jibuti to France for 99 years in return of which the French colonialists built a yards stretch of a railway line; and recently

the establishment of the American military base in Asmara (a city in North Ethiopia) whose purpose is to suppress any possible overthrowal of the crown by the working class -- in return of which the country is turned into a military ground for the furtherance of the U.S. imperialism in the Middle - and the Far East, the infiltration of American soldiers and CIA agents who call themselves Peace Corps and the domination of the university by Yankee brain washing agents are all living examples of the Monarchy's and, particularly the present monarch's conspiracy with white racism, European colonialism and American Neo-imperialism for the purpose of peasants suppression. The Future Bright

For the Ethiopian Revolution to succeed the future is bright. Next to the youth, the peasants will join the revolution. The end of Haile Sellasie's and his racist imperialist collaborators' rule on the African soil has come.

We cannot acknowledge Sellasie's blackness. His refusal at the Washington press conference 13 years ago that he is a negro or a black man is still vivid in our minds, leave alone the injustices in is committing upon our brother Ethiopians.

The Black Community in Montreal supports the Ethiopean people's struggle. Their cause is our cause. Ours is theirs.

MUHAMMAD SPEAKS July 25, 1969

YOUNG LIONS OF ETHIOPIA SHARPEN CLAWS Washington, D.C.--"Emperor Haile Selassie is every inch a king. His bearing and dignified aloofness marks him as a sovereign ruler of a populous African nation which has maintained its independence for over three thousand years, except for a brief period of Italian occupation. He is indeed 'The Lion of the tribe of Judah.'"

Such are the typical accolades given by white western governments for the little king who had, down through the years, kept his nation allied with western powers.

According to the Ethiopian Constitu-

tion proclaimed in 1955, "By virtue of His Imperial Blood, as well as by the anointing He has received, the person of the Emperor is sacred; His dignity is invinvible, and His power indisputable."

Yet, ironically, and despite this majestic and regal heritage, Selassie sits atop a restless "powder keg"--over 20 million "peasonts," subjects whose long standing grievances are now being vocalized by articulate young Ethiopian student militants, both whithin and without the country.

An example of this "restless" power was dramatized here recently when more than 50 Ethiopian students stormed the Ethiopian Chancery shortly before the arrival of Emperor Selassie for a state visit. Several of the students managed to enter the Chancery, while others were beaten back by helmeted police. Fourteen were arrested on an assortment of charges ranging from burglary to assault on police officers.

"We have organized ourselves here to show our Black broiners and sisters throughout the world that we are opposed to the repressive (Selassie) regime, and we intend to expose the exploitation perpetrated on the peasant population of Ethiopia," declared Dess Rahmato, spokesman for the Ethiopian Students Association in North America.

Rahmato, one of those arrested told Muhammad Speaks, "Haile Selassie's visit here is an attempt to solicit United States aid to suppress the present national uprising of the popular masses. In return for these services, the United States maintains an important military base in Africa on Ethiopian soil."

Rahmato pointed out that Ethiopia has served as a training ground for American and Israeli Intelligence agents, and that the feudal aristocracy is abetting the subversion of other African nations under such arrangements.

The Haile Selassie University, Rahmato charged is "totally run by the United States." The College for Police, a branch of the University, is designed to breed spies for the imperialists, he

Rahamato declared that the ESANA, having a membership of 700 Ethiopianstudents, is an affiliate of the World Wide Union of Ethiopian Students, having branches in reveral world capitols.

The "battleground," the ESANA declares is "wherever Haile Selassie and his supporters are present." Strongly militant in character, the Ethiopian student movement is decidedly unique, in that its demands are totally political in nature.

"Land to the Tiller" is the slogan espoused by the students. Under such banner, Rahmato declared "students support the peasant revolts raging in several provinces." He pointed out that strong censorship has prevented the outside world from fully realizing the extent of Ethiopia's internal strife, and the regime's oppressive acts against the populace.

What Rahmato andother spokesmen considered most despicable is the growing demoralization of the Ethiopian women who are being encouraged and driven into the country's system of "legalized prostitution."

"Corruption is growing," a female spokesman said. "We (women) are glamorized to court foreign dignitaries and the like. And many of the peasant women who come to the city for trial (failing to pay heavy taxes) become destitute and end up in the 'Shermutabet' (prostitution villa)."

"There are over 70,000 prostitutes licensed by the government," Rahmato added. "And bars now outnumber restaurants."

What is more detestable, the students contend, is the fact that such corruption makes Ethiopia ripe for the propagation of alien influences, since most those who frequent the "Shermutabet" are American soldiers. Venereal disease now is said to be reaching epidemic proportions.

The ESANA spokesmen also pointed to the country's less than 4 percent literacy rate, increasing infant mortality, and growing impoverishment of more than 90 percent of the population, as conditions ripening the masses for large scale revolts.

Much of the land, which the ESANA wants returned to the masses, is owned by Dutch, Italian and American industries.

Peasant uprisings, Rahmato disclosed, "have taken place in Gojjam, Arussa, Balle and Eritrean areas of Ethiopia," all of which have gone unreported in the western press. Rahmato added that rebellions and strikes have also haulted operations at large Dutch sugar factories.

"The movement is gaining force," Rahmato said. "The schools are closed now on account of demonstrations. Many of the students have been arrested and some sentenced toseven years in prison."

The ESANA group expresses no fear of reprisal, some of whom are expecting to return to Ethiopia shortly. "We are resolved to struggle until all our demands are fulfilled. The fight will continue until all political prisoners are set free. No amount of repression will stop our struggle against Selassie's feudal regime and its foreign patrons. Our struggle will continue until feudal oppression is crushed," an ESANA statement reads.

The students expressed solidarity with Blacks in America also struggling for freedom. "Unlike the Emperor, who declared some years ago, that the Ethiopian was not Black, but a race apart," Rahmato said, "we identify ourselves with our Black brothers and sisters, and we seek their support."

Included among the demands sought by the militant students are: throw out the "CIA" and Peace Corps and halt the squandering of the nation's wealth on elaborate ceremonial occasions and unnecessary travel; distribute land to the tillers; remove the US military base and ban government-supported immorality designed for the gratification of imperialistic land squatters.

THE BLACK PANTHER

San Francisco, Calf., July 26, 1969
THE STRUGGLE OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE
In this year of Haile Selassie's visit

to the United States, all schools as colleges throughout Ethiopia have been closed. In the course of this same year, more than two thousand students have been imprisoned in labor camps. At least thirteen students are known to have been killed by police and military forces during peaceful demonstrations. Scores of students have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six to twelve months under charges of leading thes demonstrations. Five students, one teacher and two other young Ethiopians have received prison terms of five years for alleged criminal acts against the state. Eleven high school students are presentlyappearing in courts in Addis Ababa for similar charges. Primary and high school students, and university students leaching in a one-year national educational service are being held in provincial prisons. A large number of students who have already been permanently expelled from colleges and schools are awaiting trial. Hundreds are in hospitals for injuries suffered under police and military brutality. Still more students, voung people and other progressive elements are being constantly arrested under a FASCIST DETENTION ACT issued this same year whereby any citizen can be imprisoned for six months without trial. Political prisoners are left in ice and stagnant water for days on end, dragged by cars over pebble roads, lashed while hanging by their feet, and subjected to torture by electric shock.

While Haile Selassie is visiting the United States, his armed forces continue to attack dispossessed peasants that are revolting against feudal exploitation in Balle, Eritrea, Sidamo, Gojjam, Arussi and Harar. Whole villages have been wiped out and their inhabitants massacred by air bombardments. Peasants are arbitrarily shot or hanged. Workers on strike for wage increments and rights of labour organization have been arbitrarily dismissed, imprisoned or physically eliminated. The exploitation perpertrated on the people of Ethiopia by Haile Selassie's feudal regime has led to a national up-

rising. The student movement which is a vital element in this nation-wide struggle of workers and peasant masses confronted Haile Selassie's regime with a set of popular demands early in March. These demands include an end to the waste of public funds through lavish entertainment of foreign guests and visits abroad by the Ethiopian court and its officials including such estravagant escapades overseas as Haile Selassie's visit here now. The students are opposed to prohibitive school and examination fees ina country with a per capita income of \$35 and a literacy rate of under 5%. They further insist that officials responsible for the present condition of Ethiopian education be immediately removed from office. The movement has also demanded public trial of all officials responsible for arbitrary killing and injury of students and citizens.

The struggle of the Ethiopian students against Haile Selassie'a regime has been waged under the banner of Land to the Tiller. Therefore, the student movement sully supports the peasants revolts raging in several provinces. The revolts are against the intolerable conditions imposed on the vast peasant population of Ethiopia. The peasant is, by law, required to surrender 75% of his produce to the feudal landlord. In addition to the obligations imposed on it by the feudal system over which Haile Selassie presides, the peasant population has become victim of rising taxes levied by force and coercion. The intensified and widespread uprisings this year are in protest against a new tax increment imposed by the regime to survive its most severe economic crises in recent history.

Haile Selassie's present sojourn in the United States does not come as a surprise. This has been his established practice since his infamous escape to Europe during the popular resistance against fascist Italy. At the end of the Italian occupatipation, he was reinstated by British imperialist forces who subdued the popular revolts against his return. In 1960 there was an uprising to overthrow Haile Selassie's regime during one of his frequent trips overseas. At that time, the United States was instrumental in engineering his reinstallment. Haile Selassie's present mission is yet another attempt to secure United States' help to salvage the defunct regime. The United States is fulfilling its bargain to suppress all opposition to Haile Selassie's reactionary regime in return for maintaining its most important military base in Africa on Ethiopian soil.

The Ethiopian student movement is resolved to struggle until all its just demands are fulfilled. The fight will continue until all political prisoners are set free, and all responsible for their brutal acts against the students are brought before public trial. No amount of repression will stop our struggle against Haile Selassie's feudal regime and its foreign patrons. Wherever Haile Selassie and his supporters are presant shall be the battle front for the Ethiopian student movement, and each victory a step towards the liberation of the Ethiopian people. Our struggle will continue until feudal oppression is crushed.

Should our generation die in the course, another generation shall rise to take up the historic task of building a new Ethiopia free from internal exploitation and foreign domination. We urge all men of good-will and progressive organizations everywhere to support our just cause.

Ethiopian Student Association in North America July 7, 1969

BLACK PANTHER PARTY Berkeley, Calf. July 17,1969

FULLY SUPPORT YOUR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

AND YOUR CORRECT UNITED FRONT PROGRAM
AGAINST USA FASCISM STOP OPPRESSED PEOPLES
STRUGGLE WILL OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES FOR
FINAL VICTORY OVER IMPERIALISM STOP DOWN
WITH IMPERIALISM PEOPLES STRUGGLE WILL WIN
WORLDWIDE

The following two articles come from the radical student press and attest to the growing awareness of progressive Americans of the plight of our people in Ethiopia. Their reporting will hopefully make a small dent in the official government propaganda in favor of the decadent regime and will enable progressive people everywhere to rally to our cause.

THE OLD MOLE: "A Radical Bi-Weekly" Boston, Mass.
July 18-31, 1969

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS PROTEST SELASSIE VISIT

Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia, has had a long-standing warm relationship with the US government and US finance. Up to now his visits to Washington have been lavishly feted. But when he arrived in Washington on July 7 for another such visit, to ask Nixon for arms and money, and to discuss the US army base in Ethiopia, the largest on the African continent, the cordial atmosphere was rudely disturbed. Fifty members of the Ethiopian Student Association in North America stormed the Ethiopian Embassy, in opposition to the Selassie dictatorship.

Using tactics that the US student movement could learn from, the students approached the embassy in two groups. One group walked together holding signs and flags, while the other was dispersed, later to appear en masse from nearby bushes. As the flag-bearing group approached the Embassy, they were told that they could not demonstrate within 500 feet of embassy grounds. When they replied that they were not demonstrating, but attempting to speak

with embassy officials, cops allowed them to walk up to the door.

They rang the bell of the locked embassy, and then broke rank, when as they expected, they received no answer. They kicked in the glass door and shoved sticks and kicked their feet through the window. While the startled cops called for help, the students ripped open the screens, threw rocks at windows, and stormed into the embassy to destroy Haile Selassie's photograph and other paraphernalia.

Fourteen were arrested, but most managed to escape. Several were injured as D.C. police entered the Ethiopian Embassy and beat Ethiopian students protesting their own government.

Some of the 14 arrested are still in jail, with bail set at \$2,000 each.

Money for a legal defense fund is especially important because of the special nature of the cases. If the students are convicted, they risk immediate deportation and sebsequent imprisonment by the Ethiopian regime. If the Ethiopian struggle is to continue these students must be successfully defended by good lawyers and released.

GUARDIAN A National Publication N.Y.C. July 19, 1969

Resistance to Selassie Mounting by Marilyn Salzman Webb

On the day Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie was being accorded a greeting by President Nixon reserved for the highest dignitaries, a group of Ethiopian students tore apart their nation's embassy here to remind Americans that the man being honored by the US government was an oppressive distance.

About 50 members of the Ethiopian Students Association in North America stormed the embassy July 7, near the time Selassie was arriving at the White House to demand additional US money and arms to reinforce his despotic rule. Nixon quite likely will approve Selassie's request, since the largest US military base in Africa is on Ethiopian soil -- a base viewed by the Pentagon as strategic for "communications" (i.e. espionage) in Africa and the Middle East.

Using surprise tactics, the students approached the embassy in two groups -- one openly, one through the bushes. As the first contingent approached the embassy, holding flags and signs, police said they couldn't demonstrate within 500 feet of the building. Police relented when the students said they were not demonstrating but merely attempting to enter "their" embassy.

The student group rang the bell of the locked embassy, but when the ring went unheeded, they kicked in the glass door, broke windows, entered the building and began to destroy pictures, correspondence and furniture.

Police arrived in moments with guns drawn, although they are not legally allowed to enter embassy grounds unless requested to do so by an official of the government in question. They battled with the students, eventually arresting 14 of them.

Those who escaped went to Blair House, the White House guest home, in time to

"greet" Selassie as he arrived. "Down with Haile Selassie" they chanted, while signs challenged, "US bombs from US planes are killing people in Ethiopia as well as Vietnam", and "End oppression of students, workers, peasants."

Their leaflets asked the support of American citizens in demanding that Washington evacuate "US military and paramilitary bases and personnel from Ethiopia; terminate aid programs, including the Military Assistance Advisory Group and the US Mapping Institute and the Peace Corps; and put an end to any material and moral support, including so-called economic aid, which is... used to maintain Selassie's fascist dictatorship.

The protest continued the next day until most of the students were arrested. They were being held in lieu of \$2000 bail on charges of disorderly conduct, assault, destruction of property and other "crimes". The trial is scheduled for July 15...

The students said they hoped that the US anti-imperialist movement would speak out in support of the Ethiopian struggle. "Ethiopia is the next Vietnam", one student said.

The Ethiopian student movement of North America is just one segment of the World-Wide Union of Ethiopian Students, the largest and most powerful group being inside Ethiopia. The students have begun to play a vanguard role within the country to oppose the decadent Selassie regime and nobility. Peasant and workers uprisings over local grievances have occured in past years, but the student movement, which began to gather strength just four years ago, is the only well-organized opposition movement in the country.

Although Ethiopia is often portrayed as a "storybook" nation with a picturesque pageantry of kings and queens, it is one of the few nations still in the feudal age. Ethiopia is an underdeveloped country, ranking among the world's poorest. The per capita income is estimated at between \$35 to \$50 which is a rate unparalleled even by most African states. The nobility lives well, of course. Periodic famines are rampant. At least one major province suffers severe starvation each year. About 90% of Ethiopia's population is engaged in agriculture, which contributes approximately 62% of the gross domestic product.

An Ethiopian peasant is required by law tom surrender 75% of his produce to the feudal landlord. In addition he has become the victim of rising taxes levied by force and coercion. The health situation is alarming, to say the least. Syphillis, leprosy, malaria, smallpox, typhus and desentry are endemic to the country.

Illiteracy is close to 98%; a figure enequalled by any other country.

Ethiopia has the potential for ecomomic development and wealth for the people. It possesses extremely fertile soil. The reason for the poverty is the strict hierarchical control exercised by the experor and his entourage.

No political parties are allowed.
Parliament is a parody of democracy Members of the upper house are personally appointed by Selassie and he is free to overrule any decisions of the lower house.

The Selassie dictatorship is racing increasing opposition from the masses. Strikes in key areas such as transportation, printing, sugar factories and other industries, have met with repression. Peasant rioting has led to military retalliation, including air bombardment. Whole villages have been wiped out.

The student movement confronted Selassie's regime with a set of demands last March, including an end to the waste of public funds through lavish entertainment of foreign guests and visits abroad by the Ethiopian court. Other demands included reduction of school fees, removal

of school officials and the trial on officials responsible for the killing and injury of students and citizens.

In reply to the students, Selassie closed all schools and colleges throughout Ethiopia. Nineteen students have been killed and more than 2,000 imprisoned in labor camps. Scores have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to five years.

As the power-hungry nobility occomes more uneasy with the prospect of growing popular anger, it looks to foreign nations -- especially the US -- for support against the people. As usual, the US is rising to the occasion.

The following is an incomplete account of the deportation proceeding against an active member of the Ethiopian Student Movement. Please refer to pp. 36-7 for a fuller account of the background of this case.

WASHINGTON POST Washington, D.C. July 19, 1969

ETHIOPIAN PROTESTER IS ORDERED DEPORTED by Anne Hebald

An Ethiopian citizen who participated in anit-Selassie demonstrations on July 7, was ordered deported yeaterday at a hearing here before Special Inquiry Officer Herman L. Bookford of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Tens Almayehue was released on \$1,000 bond pending appeal.

Alemayehue, 25, student at the New York Institute of Photography, was found by Bookford to be here on an expired visa.

His legal council, David Carliner, an immigration lawyer, challenged the legality of Alemayehue's arrest and and claimed that, if he is deported, he will be persecuted on political grounds in Ethiopia.

At one point during the hearing, the possibility was raised that Alemayehue might be deported to Jordan, where his uncle is the Ethiopian ambassador.

Alemayehue, a member of the Ethiopian Student Association of North America, came to Washington during the Ethiopian emperor's visit.

The demonstrations in which he took part sought to publicize the "oppression perpetrated on the Ethiopian people by Haile Selassie's regime, as well as to expose US support of the forces of reaction in Ethiopia," according to the Student Association's president, Andreas Eschete of Yale.

Alemayehue was arrested by two F.B.I. agents on July 9 at the central YMCA, where he was staying.

He was informed neither of the reason for his arrest mor of his right to legal council, he said.

Carliner stated that Alemayehue's passport was taken from not New York City apartment without his permission, "for the sole purpose of facilitating his voluntary departure from the U.S."

A further document, showing that Alemayehue's visitor visa expired May 1, 1966, was obtained illegally, Carliner asserted.

"This case will probably go on for a year and a half," said Carliner. "Our next steps will have to be to pin a lot of evidence on how dangerous life would be for Alemayehue if he were deported to Ethiopia."

In his column, Drew Pearson makes an admission of the fact that US imperialism faces insurmountable problems in Africa and the Middle East. This state of affairs is a source of distress and disillusion to the well-known columnist. But it is a source of inspiration to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Drew Pearson mourns the death of Uncle Tom Mboya, and fears that Haile Selassie ("the only real friend the United States has in North Africa") will soon meet the same fate, and reveals his colonialist mentality in assertions such as

"the curse of self government all over Africa." Pearson raises the spectre of tribalism in order to shield people from reality. Tribalism is an issue fabricated in the West for the purpose of dividing and conquering the African peoples. Socalled leaders such as Tom Mbyoa, Haile Selassie and Houphouet-Boigny are not tribalists, nor nationalists, nor internationalists. As Drew Pearson proudly confirms, they are agents of imperialism just like himself.

R

WASHINGTON POST

Washington, D.C. July 26, 1969

America's Prestige Wanes by Drew Pearson

The United States will be able to use the prestige from a successful landing on the moon. Over much of the world, American popularity is at an all-time low, as illustrated by two events in Africa.

One was the visit to Washington of the only real friend the United States has in North Africa, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. The other was the assasination of an African friend Tom Mboya of Kenya. These two events highlight the distressing change that has come over most of Africa, a continent where the United States was once considered the African's best friend.

Today, in contrast, North Africa is anti-American all the way from Egypt to Morocco, with the possible exception of Tunisia. Soviet war ships drop in at any port along the Mediterranean coast, while the US Sixth Fleet is barred. Most of the Arab countries have cancelled diplomatic relations with the United States.

There was a time when the United States occupied a series of air bases in Morocco, when the Harlem Globetrotters drew record crowds in Casablanca, when the US Air Force trained hundreds of native mechanics. Those days are no

Morocco is not as unfriendly as light or Syria, but the old cordiality as gone.

THERE ARE three main reasons for the change:

- The United States has been a friend of Israel, and Israel is hated throughout Arab world.
- The war in Vietnam is seen as an attack a white imperialist nation on a small ellow country, which is resented by black, own and yellow nations. In addition, the ense of the war has curtailed the Ameriforeign aid that once helped these derdeveloped countries.
- 1. The French have done their best to underent the United States throughout Africa, and French influence is still strong in Algeria, Frocco and West Africa.

Across the Mediterranean, the Italian avernment of Premier Mariano Rumor has just fallen, thanks to the strength of the Communist Party and the desire of many Italian Socialists to work with the Communists.

Italy has been oen of the most steadfast friends of the United States in Western Europe. Several million Italian-Americans have relatives back home and they constitute a built-in rooting section in this country.

But thw war in Vietnam is so unpopular with the Italian people that the Italian government last May unofficially informed President Nixon it would be difficult for a government friendly to the United States should resume bombing of North Vietnam.

With the downfall of the Rumor government, there is now talk of a coalition government with the Communists. This will probably not happen soon. But any new government must inguitably be less friendly toward the United States if it is to sur-

vive.

Emperor Haile Selassie, who dined at the White House recently, is probably the most respected leader of Africa and remains a good friend of the United States. He has been the foremost advocate of African unity and has discouraged the trend toward tribal rivalry.

But even such a respected monarch as Haile Selassie has problems. Younger Ethiopians are waiting for him to bow out or show some sign of weakness. Ethiopian students demonstrated against him during his Washington visit. Haile Selassie is 78 years old, and when he leaves the throne there is bound to be trouble. No strong successor is in sight.

The late Tom Mboya was educated in the United States and had close ties with American labor leaders. When I visited him in his very modest office in Nairobi some years ago, he spoke eloquently of the United States.

His assassination was probably not because of his pro-Americanism but the result of tribal rivalry, the curse of self-government all over Africa and one reason why responsible leaders like Haile Selassie and President Houphouet-Biogny have been opposed to the Biafran effort to split off from Nigeria.

President Nixon was wise in receiving Emperor Haile Selassie and would be delighted to receive other African leaders. Unfortunately, a lot of them don't want to come.

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

The following are just samples of the kind of support ESANA has received from Ethiopians the world over. Messages of support continue to arrive. The most recent one available at the time of publication is the statement from the Union of Ethiopian Students in Germany including their telegram to the Secretary of State of the US condemning the repressive actions taken by the US government against ESANA members.

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS UNION IN EUROPE Telegram ESUE expresses full solidarity with ESANA against Haile Selassie July 8, 1969

ALEMAKEF FULLY SUPPORTS YOUR REVOLUTIONARY ACTION AGAINST THE FEUDAL CHIEF HAILE SELASSIE STOP THE STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE FOR DEMOCRATIC ETHIOPIA DOWN WITH FEUDAL ISM DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE WILL WIN

ALEMAKEE

UNION OF ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Haile Selassie visited Washington for the fourth time between July 7th and 12th. Before the emperor left for the United States, he had ordered his police to brutalize the Ethiopian students who held protest strikes since March 3rd. Four students and a teacher were condemned to a five year term of hard labour under false charges of being "foreign agents". This has not stopped the struggle of Ethiopian students at home and abroad. The news of the autocrat's arrival in Washington was welcomed by Ethiopian students with the ransack of his embassy and continuous demonstrations before the White House and Blair House. The American police brutalized our patriotic brothers and sisters and arrested fourteen of them, while five were injured.

In protest to this fascist act against our compatriots, the following telegram has been sent to the US State Secretary, W. Rogers.

July 17, 1969
William Rogers
State Secretary
State Department
Washington, D.C.
Protest arbitrary arrest and ill treatment Ethiopian students stop We demand energetically immediate release stop
Executive Council
Ethiopian Student Union
Germany

PRESS RELEASE Ethiopian Students Union in Germany

The Ethiopian autocrat, Haile Selassie, made his fourth pilgrimage between July 7 and 12 to the temple of world imperialism in order to collect a few crumbs. His Finance Minister was there to present a bill of sale and the Defense Minister a list of weapons to murder the masses with. And the tyrant, who suffers from self-made illusions of Solomonian wisdom, discussed with Nixon about how and for how much Africa, in general, and Ethiopia, in particular could be sold for to US imperialism. But, tha valiant Ethiopian students did not let him have the pleasure of transacting his business in peace. On the contrary, they exposed the Emperor as a lackey of Yankee imperialism and heralded that the end of the feudalistic monarchy is near at hand. They ransacked the imperial embassy and destroyed the image which the autocrat had created thanks to the manipulation of world public opinion by the Wall Street's king-makers. The students thus expressed their opposition to the public autioning of our country by demonstrating wherever the medieval potentate offered his wares -- Ethiopia

and her people. The Yankes police beat up our brothers and sisters and five of them have been seriously injured. Four a teen others have been jailed.

Neither brutality of the American police nor that of the fetno-derash (emergency police) at home will ever cow the Ethiopian toiling masses and their vanguards, the students. The shame with which the tyrant tried to enshroud the Ethiopian people for his own image-making backfired and now the Ethiopian people have emerged glorious and victorious from this political struggle. All those who have followed the events in Ethiopia will agree that Haile Selassie is no more the Dr. Know-and-do-all of our country. As the saying goes, "he who laughs last laughs best". And that is what we, the people of Ethiopia did. Now, it is not so much a question as to whether the feudalist-comprador clique could suppress the revolutionary movement which is gaining momentum in our country as whether the monarchy would survive the revolutionary onslaught by the people. The gates of the prison of the peoples - Ethiopia - are falling down with a terrible clash thus letting in a wind of change in every aspect of our existence as people and nation. At present, the parallelogramme of forces has inclined in favour of the masses of the people. The feudalist-comprador clique which was on the offensive for many a year is now compelled to fortify and be on the defensive. The Ethiopian students throughout the world and the peasants in Gojjam, Bale, Sidamo, and in the mountains and deserts in Eritrea are now engaged in a struggle which will come to an end only with the downfall of feudalism and the eradication of ignorance, disease and poverty. We have declared a total war against the autocracy and feudalism in all its forms. Nothing will stop us. Not even the threat of a "second Vietnam" in one of the most strategic countries in Africa. We have divorced ourselves from the fable of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba with which we have been indoctrinated throughout our lives.

We have nothing in common with the "glory of the kings" nor the traditions and customs that the succeeding emperors have imposed on us. The only tradition we accept is the tradition of heroic struggle of our people for their rights, progress and dignity. A people, whose sons have been condemned to perish by whips or exhaustion, and whose daughters have been dehumanized by domestic enslavement, has no fear of sacrifice. Whatever the obscurantists at home and the imperialists and their accomplices abroad plot to deform or to minimize the revolutionary struggle of the Ethiopian people, we will carry on until final victory. We, the emergent popular forces of Ethiopia, will win.

LONG LIVE THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION

Germany, July 19, 1969

The Iranian Students Association in the United States faces the same kinds of problems and opposes the same kind of oppressive regime in Iran that Ethiopian students are fighting against. As an expression of their solidarity with our struggle the Iranian students demonstrated with ESANA members in front of the UN on July 16 and issued the statement which follows.

THE IRANIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (I.S.A.U.S.) CHAPTER OF THE CONFEDERATION OF IRANIAN STUDENTS (N.U.) July 16, 1969

The IranianStudents Association in the United States is wholeheartedly in support of the struggle of the Ethiopian students against the dictatorship of Haile Selassie. In Ethiopia, as in Iran, the jails are filled with patriots who have been fighting against their corrupt, dictatorial and archaic regime. It is oppression, not democracy; imperialist aggression, not self-determination; and reactionary puppet regimes, not progressive elements of our countries that are

ponsible for all the miseries of our ples. Future, however, is on the side democracy, self-determination and gress.

Therefore, we support the rights of iopian students to espose the dictatorp and bring to the attention of the rican people the truth about the real ditions of their country.

We reguard the arrest of the 14 iopian students in Washington, D.C. and ir imprisonment as an act of intimidan on the part of the US authorities; denies the freedom of speech of the dents, and as a consequence, the truth m reaching the American people.

We condemn the harassments of the rageous Ethiopian students and demand ir immediate release from prison.

ISA of US



