

# FORWARD!

Newsletter of the World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students

VOL 2 , no. 4

JAN. '78

# MARTYRS DAY remembered

In the revolutionary calender of the Ethiopian Student Movement every December is a month when solemen observance of the memory of the fallen heroes of the Ethiopian revolution takes place. The history of the Ethiopian Student Movement has been marked by incessant struggle between revolution and reaction, between Marxism-Leninism and all forms of opportunism, particularly right opportunism. In stiff struggle over the past years, the revolutionary line in the ESM triumphed over the counter-revolutionary and revisionist line pursued by the arch-renegade social-fascist Haile Fida-Senay Likke clique; and through long and acute two line struggle, the ESM was further developed and steeled. Hence, its astonishing growth and development from a small campus movement -to a city wide movement-to a nationwide - to a world wide revolutionary mass movement. In this selfless struggle, the ESm has sacrificed many of its most gallant and militant members.

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On December 29-30, 1969 the University Students Union of Addis Abeba (USUAA) experienced the first large scale massacre by the police. It is in this December that the President of USUAA, Comrade Tilahun Gizaw, was cowardly assassinated while he was walking home out of the University campus by 'unknown' fascist thugs. The morning after this deplorable murder of the student leader, Addis Abeba saw one of the most deplorable and shocking shootings at unarmed students, when over 30 students were massacred and over a hundered were wounded. December 1969 became the Sharpville of Ethiopia. This fascist orgy of terror exposed the limitless cruelty and ferocious depravity of the regime. The hither to paternal image of the autocrat, Haile Selassie, was starkly exposed. The people realized the level of brazen bestiallity that the ruling classes could come down to in their frenzied efforts to crush the popular movement out of existence.

Again on Dec. 1972 another cowardly massacre in mid air occurred. Ethiopi's finest young Marxists Comrades Walleligne, Marta, Tesfaye, Temesgen, Getachew, Yohannes, etc. laid down their lives to cement the undying internationalist solidarity between the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples. Why were the student revolutionaries and such Marxists as Walleligne murdered?

TT

It is common knowledge that the first revolutionary and democratic shock waves have reverberated in Addis Abeba since 1965, not through the pacifist methods of petitions but through the language of defiant massive demonstrations and through the watchwords of 'Land to the Tiller' and 'An end to imperialist plunder'. The ESM emerged bather with the revolutionary anti-feudaland anti-imperialist line and hence making a

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distinct qualitative stage, from reformist practice and theory to revolutionary practice and theory. The Student Movement perceived that its aims can be achieved only when its realization is inseparably linked with the total revolutionization of the Ethiopian society. Proceeding from this revolutionary standpoint, the students began to formulate popular demands as 'Land to the Tiller', 'US Imperialism out of Ethiopia', 'Is poverty a crime?', etc. STRUGGLE, journal of USUAA, began to carry articles from a Marxist-Leninist perspecitve and spread conciousness not only in the University and the capital but also in the provincial

cities as well. This was supplemented with clandestine papers that explained the correct point of view of student confrontation with the police which began to trickle out of the capital city.

In 1967 the Student Movement began to form contacts with the workers movement. In 1969 the Student Movement began to develop the correct views on the national movements in Eritrea and elswhere in Ethiopia. The courageous recognition of the principle of right of nations to self-determination and the Eritrean nationalities right to self-determination by the student movement provided the regime with the immediate pretext to commit its massacre against the student youth. Since then the internationalist stand of the democratic movement has become resolute. This democratic tradition, which was sealed with the blood of our heroic militants, cannot be easily erased despite the loud cries of narrownationalists and supremacists.

III

The historic February 1974 upsurge brought the concerted action of the oppressed masses into the open and gave a fatal blow to the reactionary regime of Haile Selassie. Ever since the Feb. '74 popular upsurge, both the objective and subjective factors favorable to the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed masses have prevailed throughout the country. The fascist military regime has failed totally to consolidate the power it usurped from the masses despite the deceptive and repressive measures it has resorted to; the national economy is flatering day by day, especially after the introduction of war economy; the fascist regime and its cohorts are isolated more than ever before; the revolutionary forces spearheaded by their vanguard-the EPRP are surging forward full-steam. In short, the revolutionary situation that rose up to a very high level in Feb.'74 not only is continuing unabated, but is steadily gathering greater momentum.

In spite of the empire of torture and murder which the fascists, modern revisionists, imperialists and EDU bandits would like to erect on the road of the new democratic revolution, the Marxist-Leninist EPRP is marching on developing in depth and breadth. The Ethiopian masses have the EPRA, a new type Peoples Army led by the Communist EPRP. The proletarian movement is building its strength on the basis of a long-term nation wide peasant war. Today, the EPRA is carrying out armed propaganda, political work and guerilla fighting both in the urban and rural areas. It is organizing and arming the oppressed masses and undertakes agrarian reform in various regions. The growth and development of the youth movement is marked by the emergence of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Youth League—the youth league of EPRP. The peoples united front of all the revolutionary forces in Ethiopia is being forged with the EPRP playing the leading role.

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In paying tribute to our Martyrs we don't grieve, nor do we forget their heroism. We neither forget them nor forgive the fascists who murdered them. We write their names in the Red Book of our people. No one will forget that the innocent blood spilled in 1969 steeled the revolutionaries and brought about the birth of the Communist EPRP, its peoples army the EPRA and its youth league the EPRYL. The new democratic revolution borne of blood and suffering is going to implant its roots through out the vast expanse of Ethiopia.

THE MARTYRS CAUSE WILL SHINE FOR EVER!

## us congressmen visit mengistu

The hypocrisy of both the Ethiopian junta in its 'condemnation' of Imperialism, and the US State Department in its 'reservations' and 'deep concern' about Mengistu's regime, was even more clearly revealed by the recent visit of two American congressmen to Addis. The two men met Mengistu personally, pledging economic support to the fascist regime, declaring that the US will not supply arms to Somalia so long

as the Ogaden war continues.

The congressmen paid the usual lip-service to the "question of human rights in Ethiopia" in a well-publicized press conference in Nairobi. But the extent of their 'grave concern' is better detailed in another press statement, where "... the congressmen said they expressed grave concern about human rights to Colonel Mengistu, but conceded 'we were whislling Dixie' since the Ethiopian leader considers himself in the middle of a 'war' with the EPRP and that any means are justified. When they return to Washington, they said, they will urge the Congress and the administration to continue its economic and humanitarian aid to Ethiopia and appoint a new ambassador to Addis Abeba, despite the situation in the country."(Int. Herald Tribune, Dec. 17-18, '77, our emphasis)

The cry about the 'human rights issue' on the one hand and the close collaboration with the fascist regime on the other once more testifies that is policy, identifiable with Carter, is nothing but the new trademark of imperialist plunder and exploitation designed behind the doors of the White House. Although the Carter administration has made a lot of fanfare about the issue of human rights it still remains as the main force which is supporting the bloodthirsty regimes of Pinochet, Videla and the like in Latin America, inibiating and making possible the torture and massacre of Latin American communists, democrats and

patriotic elements.

Therefore, the pledge of 'economic and humanitarian aid' to the regime (the latest 'donation' of humanitarian aid' from USA to Ethiopia £3½ million) is nothing less than a reward to Mengistu for his attempts to crush by torture and massacre the EPRP communists and revolutionary youth who are the arch enemies of imperialism. On the other hand, Mengistu's acceptance of such 'aid' is a clear indication of how much he 'hates' imperialism; for the US imperialists, by their very nature, cannot give real economic aid, but merlely entangle the 'benefitting' country further and further into their system of extraction of super profits. This attests to the neo-colonial status of Mengistu's fascist regime.

This activity on the part of the US imperialists is part of a sort of 'division of labour' between all imperialist, hegemonist and reactionary forces in the efforts to stifle the New Democratic Revolution in Ethiopia, and 'crush' its vanguard party, the EPRP. The Soviet revisionists and their puppets, the zionists in Israel, the US imperialists— all these are in various degrees collaborating with the hangman Mengistu in an unholy alliance to wipe out the EPRP.

### **EPRA** carried out rectification

The EPRP's foreign committee has disclosed in the last issue of ABYOT(vol. 2 no.7) the successful completion of four months' extensive rectification campaign within the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army. The rectification movement within the Peoples Army was carried out, states ABYOT, '' to sum up its experiences of the last two years and to correct its shortcomings."

The EPRP has effectively led the struggle of the masses against the fascist military junta and its multiple allies for over three years now. True to its adherence to Communist Principles and correct analysis of objective reality, the EPRP has proved to be the genuine Marxist-Leninist vanguard of the Ethiopian toilers. During the past years the Party has proved its leadership in the significant political organizational, agitational and military work conducted among workers, peasants, and other oppressed section of the society despite the raving anti-EPRP propaganda and war of extermination unleashed by the desperate Colonels and their ilk from Moscow to Washington, Israel to Cuba. Since its inception, the EPRP has been building the revolutionary army of the people to carry forward the revolution by protracted armed struggle. The deployment of the EPRA in armed struggle was the result of intense mobilization and politicization. The intensification of politico-military struggle, thanks to the correct leadership of the EPRP, is now rocking the tottering regime more violently than ever before. The growing revolutionary violence has sharpened, and as a result diverse internal contradictions are developing amongst the Colonels.

The sparkling red star nurtured by valiant fighters, now glimmering on the mountains of Asimba, is advancing the agrarian revolution under the leadership of the EPRP, the effective educational and politicization work carried out by the EPRA and the integration of its combatants with peasantry. Meanwhile, the workers and urban dwellers defence squads organized by the Party and led by the EPRA urban units have effectively

rebuffed the fascist terror unleashed by the regime.

In spite of the barbarous massacres carried out by the Junta, and hence a number of difficulties, the EPRP and its armed wing the EPRA have once again scored another brillian victory in carrying out a successful rectification movement of criticism and self-criticism.

By carrying out such a thorough going criticism and self-criticism culminating in a rectification measure, the EPRP has once again demonstrated its unfliching commitment to Marxism-Leninism and its genuine adherence to the true democratic line of the proletariat. In reiterating

this principled stand for proletarian democracy ABYOT states:

Democracy is not a luxury but a pre-requisite for the effective functioning of the organization and the realization of its aimes. EPRP never tries to stifle/curtail the democratic rights of the masses on this or that pretext. We do not aim to be another Soviet Union or East Germany, where socialism means dictatorship of a clan of exploiting bureaucrats over the working people." and adds that "All that is stale, revisionist and coportunist must be clensed in time. All that is revolutionary and democratic must be preserved and developed. Bringing our shortcomings into the open and getting rid of them democratically is not a sign of weakness or division (as some petty-bourgeois sections who believe in hiding their weaknesses and in settling their differences by liquidating eachother may declare) but a proof of our stength and solid unity."

Among other things achieved in the rectification movement was the adoption of a basic diciplinary law for the EPRA presented by the Party after thorough democratic discussions by party members and combatants. What is more, the setting up of the Union of Women Combatants within

the EPRA is an equally great achievement.

We hail the EPRP and its armed wing, the EPRA, in the successful rectification movement conducted at a time when they are also pitching the fascist junta in a fierce class battle. The EPRP and EPRA have emerged more strong and united while the enemy camp is in a state of siege and disarray.

### soviet hegemonism exposed

Combating every brand of opportunism- be it revisionism or dogmatism, 'is a question of extraordinary, indeed of primary, importance' to all Marxist-Leninists engaged in the struggle for true democracy and socialism.

After enumerating the many episodes in the long history of ardous struggle waged by the Ethiopian people against internal and external enemies, namely feudalism, fascism and western imperialism led by US, ABYOT (vol. 2 no. 7) reminds its readers of the emergence of a fresh enemy in the arena of the Ethiopian democratic revolution, the Soviet

hegemonists and their cohorts from Cuba and East Europe.

"The EPRP did not start to fight the Moscow counter-revolutionaries only at the time they took the side of fascism and stood against the Ethiopian revolution. When the EPRP was founded it declared that revisionism constitutes a very grave danger and is the main one to the international communist movement. Consequently, the EPRP consistently fought against revisionism both inside and outside the party. Its concrete positions on very many international situations (Middle East, Africa, Cambodia, etc.) clearly expressed its firm antirevisionist line. Internally, the ideological struggle never slackened. Collaborationist and reformist currents were exposed and beaten on many occassions. The struggle against revisionists outside the party helped also to discredit any such tendency that may arise within the

party."

In a number of its publications, especially in its official organ DEMOCRACIA, the EPRP has been widely teaching the masses the danger posed by the Soviet bureacrats to the Ethiopian revolution in particular and the international working class movement in general. The supply of arms, 'experts' and interrogators, etc. and the diplomatic support the USSR is is giving to the crumbling fascist state cannot be isolated from the nature of todays 'Soviet' state. ABYot describes the 'Soviet' Union as " a country where democracy has been stifled. It is a country where a clique of bureaucrats rule with iron hands in the name of the working class. It is a country where the working class has no say either in the running of the government or the industries. It is a country where the people are muzzled, where genuine Marxists are hounded, sent to concentration camps or destroyed in psychiatric hospitals. In the Soviet Union (and in East Europe) Socialism is a mask behind which ruthless counter-revolutionary revisionists hide."

ARYOT admits the existence of the seed of revisionism in every Marxist-Leninist Party and says that it is the duty of genuine

communists to pinch it sharply while it is in the bud.

ABYOT went on to say that " we fight the Soviet and other revisionists because we want to keep our country free from such pests. We fight them because the society we want to build, i.e. a genuiely socialist Ethiopia, is contrary to theirs. The EPRP firmly believes and zealously guards its independence. It will fight the Soviet just as it and will continue to fight the US imperialrevisionists just as it and will continue to fight the US imperialists. It will fight revisionism and will struggle dogmatist currents inside and outside the party. Marxism-Leninism is a vibrant, ever developing correct and scientific ideology. It is alien to all those who want to revise or ossify it."

Lastly, the editorial of ABYOT concluded by expressing the strong determination of the EPRP to fight against the Soviet hegemonists and

US imperialists and their local agents until final victory.

# ARMED resistance

We have been consistently reporting that despite the repression unleashed against the masses, every passing day the toilers are getting organized and resisting the fascist thugs who attempt to enter houses and kill innocent people at random. The recent official declaration that legalized the killing of anyone at will has already caused the loss of lives of thousands of people. The following are few instances in which thanks to the EPRP's defence squads, the masses have repulsed the attacks of the desperado Mengistu's regime.

In east central Addis Abeba known as Aware when fascist soldiers tried to forcefully enter houses at 3 a.m. backed by armoured tanks, the masses who already knew of this plan were ready to defend themselves from any surprise attack. In a battle that took two solid hours, two out of three tanks were completely destroyed and 20 to 30 enemy soldiers killed. It was also reported that the fascist soldiers killed three comrades.

On Nov. 26, in different parts of Addis Abeba Comrade Binyam Tilahun, women Comrade Tigest G. Selassie and other gallant fighters have fallen after killing and wounding several fascist soldiers.

# CUBAN mercenaries punished

Along with the sinsister gangs of Ethiopia, Cuban soldiers have been engaged in harrassement of revolutionaries, democrats and innocent people for quite some time now. In addition to their counter-insurgency activity against the Marxist-Leninist EPRP and its armed wing EPRA, these mini-dogs of Russia have raped many girls. One instance is the raping of nurses of the Makelle hospital.

News coming from Addis Abeba
says that in another incident six
Cuban soldiers who had forced women
comrades to come with them to Insaro
Hotel are said to have been punished
by these same girl comrades. In reply
to this self-defence revolutionary
measure the desperate junta has killed
a number of people in the area.

### revolutionary

propaganda

The EPRA has been successfully producing two journals for some time now. ASSIMBA, the official organ of the Army, and, more recently, AMITSU. ASSIMBA has been used as a bassis for propaganda work amongst the soldiers and so-called 'peoples militia'; the rate of desertion of these peasants and soldiers to the side of revolution is ample evidence for the sucess of the journal. AMITSU (rebel), on the other hand, is the theoretical organ of the Army, in which theory becomes united with practice. Different views on theoretical matters appear in the pages, theoretical struggle is conducted on it, and by this means the correct proletarian analysis will be upheld.

Meanwhile, in the face of the torrent of filthy fascist propaganda which is constantly emitted from the junta's media, the clandestine revolutionary antifascist publications of the EPRP and revolutionary mass organizations have been proliferating, confounding the junta and heightening the consciousness and organizational ablities of the masses. Thre are more than 30 such papers appearing in Addis Abeba alone.

Revolutionary culture is developing alongside the revolutionary struggle and is in its turns strengthenig it. Revolutionary poems, short stories and songs, composed by EPRP members and sympathiers, are being circulated clandestinely with such success that the junta has intensified its CONFISCATION OF CASSET TAPES. EPRP is soon to publish a collection of these poems, short stories and songs, as they manifest the great revolutionary consciousness, determination and optmism of the oppresed Ethiopian masses in their fight for democracy and socialism.

# REPRESSION escalates

The political repression in Ethiopia has been further intensified inspite of and as a result of mounting opposition to the fascist regime. Faced with an increasingly hostile situation the junta has continued the indiscriminate killings of people including the young and the old, the women and children in the cities and countryside.

Most recently the burnt of this savage atrocities has been by the many thousand political prisoners in the junta's concentration camps. EPRP had reported in September that the junta was considering the execution of 10,000 political prisoners. This fascit plan has been exposed by the organized struggle of the political prisoners themselves at the beginning of October and the intensified political campaign by the EPRP at home and abroad. This movement by the prisoners won the support of the population and in many places demonstrations were staged by the people.

Part of the reason for deciding to execute the prisoners is because of complaints by Kebelle'Associations' leaders that the prisoners 'being held in big groups are creating problems by redding, discussing, organizing themselves.' The idea is that they are taken to the countryside under the pretext of doing 'productive labour' and they are to be executed there. According to ABYOT, recently, 150 prisoners in Tigrai p province were taken for a 'developmnt' project' and secretly executed.

Amid this ferocious onslaught against the people the drive to forcefully recurit more youngsters into the army and 'militia' has continued unabated. In one such drive the regime attempted to fool 200 students from the Makalle High School who were told that they would be taken to Russia for 'higher studies.' Instead, they were taken to a military camp in Fitche ( a town in Showa province) for traing. This was denounced by all the students and they left the camp to go back to Makalle. When the news reached Makalle, the people of the city became very indignant.

Among the many devious schemes the junta is planning against the people is the bombing of churches and mosques in an attempt to whip up religious outcry against the EPRP. On Dec. 1st the fascist junta issued a statement 'warning' the people that the 'EPRP plans to bomb churches and mosques'. This shameful lie has once again exposed for all to see that the junta has not only sunk further into the mire of desperation but that it is also frantically preparing to carry out a series of terrorist bombings in Addis Abeba and elsewhere. This attempt to 'discredit' the EPRP will surely fail because the masses know that the EPRP has never and will never resort to terrorist acts.

# victories of EPRA

According to recent military communiques of EPRA, the Peoples Army has been further intensifying its work in the three administrative regions of Tigrai, Gondar, and Wollo, during August, September and October. Below is a summary of military victories won by the EPRA units in battle against fascist soldiers in various regions.

\* The EPRA units raided the military camp at ABEY-ADI and completely destroyed the garrison. Prior to this battle, in this same district called Tembien, EPRA combatants held over 200 prisoners and killed and wounded many enemy soldiers. the reinforcement of two trucks of soldiers from Makalle were ambushed. The fight took from 4a.m. to 10 a.m. It was reported that the Peoples Army captured lots of erms. As a result of the intensified fight and the support of the town people to the EPRA, Abey-Adi, capital of Tembien district is out of the military regime's control.

(cont'd on 5.3)

(cont'd from p.7)

\* In two other successful ambushes of army convoy heading for Adigrat from Gondar 50 supply trucks were destroyed. The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army liberated; -

- 520 quintals of sugar

- 2 trucks of meat and other foodstuff

- 80 cans of butter

- 150 quintals of flour

The convoy was led by a Capitain, and it was said that 150 soldiers have joined the EPRA. In this fight the peasants in the area stood by the side of the Peoples Army and brought over 700 donkeys to

carry the foodstuff to EPRA base areas.

\* In the fight that took place at the Bajet and Samne sub-districts of Enderta, Tigrai province, EPRA combatants killed 5 enemy soldiers and held 100 prisoners. It was also reported that Major Micheal, Commander of the Artillery Division in Adigrat, along with his wife children and many soldiers joined the EPRA.

NEWYORK: - Ethiopian Women Study Group in North America and Ethiopian Students Union in North America are to stage mass demonstration on January 9th '78 to denounce and expose the fascist war of extermination committed by Mengistu's regime and Soviet mercenaries in Ethiopia.

London: - Ethiopian Students Union in Europe - UK-Branch planned mass picket on Ethiopian and Soviet Union embassies on 13th and 14th of January, '78 to be accompanied by 48 hours hunger strike in front of the two embassies to oppose the collusion of the fascist military regime and Russian revisionists.

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Please note change of address; FORWARD!

47 Clanricarde Gardens London W2 U.K. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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World-Wide Ethiopian Women Study Group /WWEWSG/
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- To establish a national democratic culture and educational system and to run public health services enter-
- To boold a Peoples' Army wholly devoted to defend and serve the broad masses and the country
- To ensure equality between men and women politically, economically and socially
- To pursue a foreign policy of peace and non-alignment and active solidarity with all the forces fighting for pages, democracy and socialism.