

Solidarity Message of the COUSML to the First Congress of the Association of Eritrean Students Held in the Liberated Areas of Eritrea-May 8-11, 1978

Workers' Advocate, Vol. 8, No. 7, July 24, 1978

Comrades! Revolutionary greetings! This First Congress of the Association of Eritrean Students in the liberated areas of Eritrea comes at a time of colossal victories of the Eritrean people's struggle for national liberation and independence. The great mass movement of the Eritrean people against Ethiopian aggression and occupation of their country has surged to ever greater heights. The Eritrean student movement is part of the whole people's movement, and this Congress marks the achievements of the Eritrean people's struggle. Led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, the Eritrean people and their heroic fighters of the Liberation Army have liberated 95 per cent of the country. The Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists has closely followed and warmly supported your struggle for many years and, in the name of the American proletariat, hails your inspiring achievements!

It is when the reactionaries are on their deathbed that they are most treacherous and vicious. In response to the victories of the Eritrean people, world reaction has stepped up its attempt to subvert the Eritrean revolution and drown it in blood. The Soviet Union for over a year has been the main supplier of arms to the Ethiopian fascists. Over 3,500 Cuban puppet troops have been sent into Asmara to reinforce the defeated and demoralized Ethiopian aggressors. Soviet fighter planes drop napalm and cluster bombs on Eritrean cities and Soviet warships shell Massawa. The Soviet Union and Cuba are trying in vain to conceal their hideous crimes and pretend to seek a "peaceful political solution". They want the Eritrean people to drop their guns and sell out their aspirations for national independence and liberation. But the people's eyes are bright, and the Soviet Union is only succeeding in exposing its ugly features to Eritrea

and the world, arousing the people everywhere against itself. The policy of the Soviet social-imperialists and their lackeys is a typically aggressive colonialist and neo-colonialist policy based on the power of capital and force of arms. Last August, the Association of Eritrean Students in North America sponsored a meeting in Washington to hail the 16th anniversary of the armed struggle for national liberation in Eritrea. At that meeting the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists in its solidarity message stated that "no matter if the enemy comes to Eritrea wearing a hammer and sickle on his chest -- but murder in his heart -- the Eritrean people will kill him just the same!" We are very pleased to see that you are doing just that.

The U.S. imperialists through their Israeli Zionist agents continue arms shipments to the Ethiopian fascists. Also, U.S. imperialism continues to pour finance capital into Ethiopia to bolster and influence the reactionary regime. The U.S. call for a "peaceful settlement", a "federal solution" for Eritrea supports the Soviet-Cuban aggression while attempting to preserve U.S. neo-colonial influence. For the same reason the U.S. bolsters the traitorous Sabbe clique to weaken the Eritrean revolution. Now, just as in the past, the consistent and unceasing struggle to expose the policy and foil the aggressive plans of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, constitutes an essential condition for the defense of freedom, for the triumph of the revolution and the liberation of the peoples.

The Eritrean people, led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, will smash all the counter-revolutionary attacks and schemes against Eritrea's independence. The history of brilliant victories of the EPLF confirm the correctness of its line of self-reliance and the decisive role of politicizing, organizing and arming the masses of people. The National Democratic Program of the EPLF adopted at its First Congress clearly embodies the aspirations of the Eritrean people. The American proletariat is greatly heartened and inspired by your struggle, which is part and parcel of the world proletarian socialist revolution and materially as well as spiritually aids and supports our struggle to overthrow U.S. imperialism once and for all. Your revolutionary achievements confirm that revolution is the main trend in the world, that the people of a small nation can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of

their own country. On this basis you have won victory after victory, and on this basis you will carry the revolution through to the end.

HAIL THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ERITREAN STUDENTS IN THE LIBERATED AREAS OF ERITREA!

LONG LIVE THE EPLF!

VICTORY TO THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION! End.