

ERITREA IN STRUGGLE

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Association of Eritrean Students Hold First Congress in Liberated Areas

Under the slogan "struggle to build a democratic Association of Eritrean Students!" and amidst an atmosphere characterized by the spirit of unity and struggle, the first congress of the Association of Eritrean Students (AES) was successfully held between May 8-11, 1978 in the liberated city of Keren. Participating in this historic congress were delegates of AES branches inside Eritrea and from the Middle East, Europe and N. America. The congress was observed by representatives from the people's assemblies of Keren, Dekemhare, Ghinda and of all EPLF's mass organizations. Messages of solidarity to the congress from various progressive organizations in Europe, the U.S. and Canada were read. The messages which hailed the first congress of AES as a political triumph for the EPLF-led Eritrean revolution and the anti-imperialist struggle at large were accepted with thunderous applause and enthusiasm. To further emphasize the dialectical relationship of the revolution in Eritrea with the struggle in the rest of the world the delegates led by the cultural troupe of the EPLF sang "The Internationale."

After the preparatory committee read its welcome speech and the agenda was adopted the congress proceeded to elect the presidium. According to the agenda the floor was given to Comrade Romadan Mohamed Nur, the Secretary General of the EPLF. Addressing the congress in the name of the EPLF and the entire Eritrean people, the Comrade Secretary expressed the significance of the congress to the heroic Eritrean masses in general and Eritrean students in particular. "It is with boundless joy," said the Comrade Secretary, "that I address this congress, which the Eritrean masses have been eagerly looking forward to and for which democratic Eritrean students have fought with great determination." Earlier in his speech the Comrade Secretary reminded all present that "the conditions for convening your historic congress in this city and on this day have been created by the heroic martyrdom of many patriotic and revolutionary fighters and the defence struggle which is being waged at this very moment in deep trenches and under difficult conditions by our courageous fighters." The important speech dealt quite briefly with the long anti-colonial struggle of the Eritrean people. It linked the patriotic and courageous struggle of the Eritrean students with the brilliant history of resistance of our heroic people. To cite concrete incidents Comrade Romadan noted, "When the Ethiopian regime introduced Amharic as the schools' medium of instruction during the period of the imperialist instigated "federation" (1952-62), Eritrean students opposed this aggressive act and raised a number of political demands. In the four day mammoth demonstrations that were held in Asmara in 1958,

the students stood on the side of the workers and paid many sacrifices."

Analyzing the situation since the start of the armed struggle, the Comrade Secretary said, "When the Eritrean armed struggle started in 1961, the reactionary leaders who had the upper hand found the vigorous workers' and students' movements a threat to their interests and far from encouraging it strove to sabotage and isolate it. Since students come from different class backgrounds and have different outlooks, it is inevitable that their role in the revolution will vary. In the ELF, the democratic students were suppressed and assassinated because of their opposition to the reactionary line and practices of the movement, while the opportunists became the collaborators and tools of the reactionary leadership."

The speech also discussed the correct political line of the EPLF in regard to organizing, politicizing and arming of the masses tracing the protracted arduous struggle waged by the EPLF to organize the Eritrean youth under one democratic organization. The Comrade Secretary summed up the historical importance of the congress by saying that the first congress of AES is not a spontaneous event or "meant for public consumption but is a product of the long and bitter struggle of the EPLF and the conscious work of the democratic students."

In this important congress detailed political and organizational reports from all participating branches were thoroughly studied and vigorously discussed and experiences summed up. The resolutions passed and the constitution adopted by the congress clearly reflected the tremendous political, ideological and organizational maturity of the student movement. The congress finally elected a seven member executive committee to lead the AES.

The founding congress of AES is the first democratic congress in the history of the Eritrean student movement to bring together all the democratic Eritrean student associations at home and abroad to exchange and sum up experiences and chart out common objectives for future struggle. The congress is the long awaited fruit of the protracted difficult struggle waged by the militant and revolutionary students against all kinds of reaction and the EPLF's efforts to organize the Eritrean youth.

Eritrean youth have a wealth of experience in revolutionary struggle. Along with their compatriots they opposed the sham "federation" imposed on the Eritrean people in 1950 and demanded independence. During the period of the so-called federation Eritrean students side by side with the workers staged constant demonstrations in opposition to Ethiopian colonial

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domination. When the armed struggle began in 1961, students were among the first to join it. The formation of the EPLF in 1970 provided the student movement correct political guidance and a program of struggle. The EPLF, aware that the student movement required a strong organization, gave its utmost attention to organizing the student masses. Cells were formed in the enemy occupied cities. The cells have been performing remarkable roles in undermining the enemy's ability to control the situation in the cities. Defying the enemy's fascist suppression the organized students undertake missions such as destroying enemy economic installations, distributing literature, seizing enemy property and supplying them to the liberated areas. The student organizations have grown big. Today there are branches of the AES in most of the liberated as well as the enemy controlled cities.

Eritrean students abroad have also supported their people's struggle and struggled to organize themselves. The first organization of patriotic Eritreans was formed in Cairo in 1952. Another organization was formed in 1968 under the name General Union of Eritrean Students (GUES). Unlike the name implies, GUES's membership was mainly limited to the Middle East and its leadership was monopolized by the agents of the reactionary ELF leadership. In 1970 it split into GUES (Baghdad) and GUES (Cairo). GUES (Cairo) came out in support of the EPLF but was still under the heels of the Sabbe clique. Due to the backward, divisive and sectarian practices of the reactionaries and opportunists the Eritrean student movement in the Middle East could not consolidate itself as a strong force. However, through persistent efforts, the democratic students within GUES finally succeeded in forming their own democratic organization, the Association of Eritrean Students in the Middle East (AESME) in 1977. This was a great triumph for the student movement as a whole and a shameful defeat for the ELF leadership and the opportunist Sabbe clique who did everything they could to prevent the Eritrean students in the Middle East from organizing under the political line of the EPLF.

In Europe the Eritreans for Liberation in Europe (EFLE), an organization of patriotic Eritreans, was formed in 1970. From the outset this organization had a political position that condemned the reactionary and liquidationist line of the ELF and supported the correct political line of the EPLF. As in the Middle East in Europe as well the struggle against the bankrupt politics of the reactionaries was also waged. The democratic students contributed to the consolidation of EFLE by persistently struggling side by side with the thousands of Eritrean workers resident in Europe. In its 8th congress in August 1977, EFLE reorganized itself and formed the Association of Eritrean Students in Europe (AESE) and the Association of Eritrean Workers in Europe (AEWE) following the guideline of the EPLF. EFLE has registered many victories over many opportunists and reactionaries that aspired to divide and weaken the organization from within.

Our organization, the Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA), as an organic part of the Eritrean student movement, has its own contribution to the creation of AES. In 1971, Eritreans for Liberation in North America (EFLNA), an organization of patriotic Eritrean workers and students, was formed. EFLNA setting out with a clear political line consolidated itself within a course of three years. Following the EPLF's correct political line it struggled to have a centralized political education program for its members. While keeping close contact with the EPLF, EFLNA consistently fought all kinds of divisive tendencies that found their way into the organization and developed into a politically and organizationally mature organization.

While working for the consolidation of its internal strength, EFLNA recognizing the need for a principled unity of patriotic Eritrean organizations abroad struggled towards the formation of a centralized organ of the progressive Eritrean organizations abroad. It was with this genuine desire that the signing of the

Pavia Declaration in August 25-28, 1973 was reached between the delegates of GUES (Cairo), EFLE and EFLNA. The theme of the declaration was that the organizations should commit themselves to the forging of a principled unity among themselves with the ultimate aim of forming a world wide organization of Eritrean patriots under the leadership of EPLF. Although the Pavia Declaration was hailed as the first step forward in the right direction, the following years proved that much more effort had to be exerted before such a unity could materialize. As the leadership of GUES (Cairo) under the direction of the Sabbe Clique worked against the Declaration the effort failed to bear fruit.

Not discouraged by the outcome of the Pavia Declaration EFLNA continued its principled effort to forge strong relationships with its sisterly organization EFLE and the patriotic rank and file members of GUES. In all its congresses' deliberations EFLNA constantly raised the subject of its relationship with the sisterly mass organizations, assessed achievements made and problems encountered and suggested possible means and ways of strengthening unity and cooperation in the common cause for independence and liberation.

Following the EPLF's guidance for the formation of the mass organizations, EFLNA in its 8th congress in August 1977 formed the Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA) and the Association of Eritrean Women in North America (AEWNA).

It is therefore with this history of struggle for a principled unity of Eritrean students in the background that AESNA hails the first congress of AES. The holding of the first congress is by no means an end in itself for the Eritrean students. On the contrary, it is only a means through which they would intensify their participation in the revolution under the leadership and guidance of the EPLF. AES creates the material condition to centralize the work of mobilizing, organizing, politicizing and arming the Eritrean students. It helps raise the political consciousness of all members and to narrow the existing gap between members in their political consciousness. The AES is a powerful organization through which the Eritrean students channel their all round support to their revolutionary vanguard organization—the EPLF.

The holding of a successful congress of AES at this particular juncture of the Eritrean revolution cannot be seen in isolation from the brilliant all round advance of the EPLF-led revolution. It is the dialectical outcome of a long, bitter struggle waged by EPLF in the field of organizing, politicizing and arming the Eritrean masses in general and the youth in particular. Simultaneously it is the result of the persistent struggle by the militant and democratic students against the various divisive machinations of both the Ethiopian occupationists and Eritrean reactionaries.

Also the congress derives its importance from the national and international situation prevailing at its convention. The congress

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The AES first congress opened with a minute of silence in honor of the martyrs of the revolution.

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was held at a time when the fascist junta armed to the teeth by the US & USSR, and its troops trained by the Cubans and Israeli Zionists is in the middle of a desperate "final offensive" to drown the Eritrean people in blood, at a time when except for a few cities the entire country is under the control of the liberation forces, at a time when the EPLF and ELF have reached a unity agreement in the struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

Finally the holding of a successful first AES congress is indeed a triumph for the entire Eritrean people and all supporters of the Eritrean revolution. While this victory delights all those who like to see the Eritrean people crush their enemies united as one, it on the other hand brings terror to the hearts of all declared enemies of the EPLF-led revolution. With the Eritrean students resolved as never before to score more victories by fully participating in the new democratic revolution, the Ethiopian fascists and their imperialist-zionist sustainers know quite well that their days are numbered. In response they will intensify their campaign of mass genocide and vilification. But no matter what the attempt by the Ethiopian occupationists and internal reactionaries & opportunists to divide and weaken it, the student movement under the leadership and guidance of the EPLF has become an irresistible force within the Eritrean revolution that no reactionary can tamper with.

The AES has indeed chosen the exemplary role taken by the General Association of Eritrean Peasants (GAEP) who after a long arduous struggle against colonial oppression and feudal reaction succeeded in uniting themselves into a formidable GAEP. The road traversed and the experience gained by the student movement have been scientifically analyzed and summed up. The task remains now to continue the struggle to a higher level with the utmost dedication and determination.

Resolutions and Recommendations of the First Congress of the AES

On the EPLF

1. *The congress extends its full support to the EPLF, which through its revolutionary struggle to bring about basic transformation of Eritrean society, has proven that it is the true vanguard of the Eritrean revolution.*

2. *Hails the spectacular victories that the Eritrean people's Liberation Army (EPLA) has scored by correctly applying the science of people's war.*

3. *Accepts the programme, constitution and resolutions adopted at the First Organizational congress of the EPLF and struggles to implement them.*

4. *Hails the courageous and persistent struggle that the Eritrean people organized in their respective mass organizations are waging under the leadership of the EPLF.*

On National Unity

1. *Supports the EPLF's line on national unity, convinced that this can bring about genuine unity.*

2. *Supports the October 20 unity agreement between the EPLF and ELF along with the March 15 document and struggles for its correct implementation.*

3. *Condemns all reactionary forces, in particular the "third force" which does not have a place in the Eritrean field and which is a traitorous force in the service of imperialism, for their attempt, to sabotage the unity of the forces of the Eritrean revolu-*

tion in general and the implementation of the October 20 agreement and the March 15 document in particular.

On Ethiopia

1. *Condemns the fascist Dergue for conducting a barbaric war of aggression to liquidate the Eritrean masses and its preparations for an all-out offensive to crush the just struggle of the Eritrean people.*

2. *Rejects the fascist Dergue's "peaceful solution" which is designed to isolate the Eritrean revolution from the progressive people of the world and extends its full support to the proposal for peaceful solution adopted by the EPLF's First Organizational Congress.*

3. *Opposes all countries that are giving political and military support to the fascist Dergue against the Eritrean revolution and calls on all socialist and progressive countries to stand on the side of the Eritrean revolution.*

4. *Fully supports the democratic struggles in Ethiopia.*

International Solidarity

1. *Condemns the activities and attempts of the imperialists, zionists and all reactionary forces to crush the national liberation movements in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa.*

2. *Expresses its support to the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in particular to the peoples of Palestine, Oman, Azania, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Western Sahara, East Timor, Puerto Rico, etc. in their just struggle against imperialism, colonialism and zionism.*

3. *Expresses its support to the struggle of the revolutionary and democratic forces in the capitalist countries and all revolutionary forces in the world.*

4. *Thanks all countries and organizations that are supporting the Eritrean revolution and calls on them to continue their support.*

The congress resolved to struggle to:

1. *Organize Eritrean students into the AES so they can participate in the EPLF led national struggle.*

2. *Strive to raise the political consciousness and organizational experience of each member.*

3. *Isolate all reactionaries and opportunists from the students movement and fight for the unity of the democratic Eritrean student movement.*

4. *Strive to find educational scholarships and properly distribute them among the members.*

5. *Train cadres from all chapters of the AES.*

6. *Encourage students who have finished their education to join the struggle in the Eritrean field.*

7. *Forge a solid alliance with democratic student organizations and revolutionary forces all over the world and struggle against Imperialism, zionism and all reactionary forces.*

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EPLF Sends Message To The Internationalists

On April 30, 1978 an important revolutionary rally, an historic event in the struggle of the proletariat in North America in general and in Canada in particular, the Internationalist Rally was held in Montreal, Canada. Over 3,500 people enthusiastically participated in the rally. Organized by the Communist Party of Canada (M-L), the Internationalist Rally was attended by the Communist Party of Spain (M-L), the Communist Party of Portugal (Reconstructed), the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile, the Workers and Peasants Communist Party of Iran, the Communist Party of England (M-L), the Communist Party of Ireland (M-L), the Communist Party of India (M-L), the Organization for the Reconstruction of the Communist Party of France (ORCPF), the Marxist Leninist Organization Le Travailleur Tunisien, the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists, the Zimbabwe African National Union and the National Liberation Movement of Trinago (Trinidad and Tobago). Among those that sent messages of solidarity were the Party of Labor of Albania (PLA), the Communist Party of Germany (M-L) and the Communist Party of Italy (M-L).

Both the Association of Eritrean Students in North America and the Association of Eritrean Women in North America participated in the Internationalist Rally. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front also sent a message to the rally. Following is the full text of the EPLF message to the Internationalist Rally.

Comrades,

It is a pleasure for us to receive an invitation from the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) to participate in the Internationalist Rally in Montreal on April 30, 1978. We deeply regret however that we are unable to attend the rally. But comrades, we are with you on this important occasion. We forward our heartfelt solidarity to the CPC(M-L) and all the participants and through the rally to the international proletariat and all the struggling peoples throughout the world. The EPLF and our heroic fighting masses are with you in struggle. Through the reverberations of our gun blasts, through the daily heroic battles we are waging against our enemies we express our solidarity with you.

We wish the rally every success. We are optimistic that this revolutionary rally will bring together a great number of revolutionary peoples from all over the world in the spirit of a common struggle against imperialism and reaction of all colors and shades.

The Eritrean people and the EPLF identify ourselves and our struggle with the revolutionary proletariat and with the fighting masses of all countries. We consider our struggle as an integral part of the world wide revolutionary struggle against imperialism and all reaction. We believe that the revolutionary forces should forge strong solidarity between each other and support each other's struggle in every possible means. Comrades, it is our intent and desire to establish strong relationships with all revolutionary forces the world over.

We value highly the support of the revolutionary forces to the struggle we are waging. CPC(M-L)'s support for our revolutionary struggle and in particular its efforts to publicize our struggle are of great encouragement to us. We were also very pleased to have a CPC(M-L) delegation visit our liberated areas. The visit by the CPC(M-L) delegation to our liberated areas definitely deepened the Canadian and Eritrean people's knowledge about each other's struggles and strengthened the revolutionary solidarity that exists between the two fraternal peoples. May the revolutionary solidarity that binds the Canadian and Eritrean peoples and the national liberation movement with the revolutionary proletariat be as solid as a rock.

Comrades,

Allow us now to say a few words about the struggle we are waging. Today, our 17 year old armed national liberation war has

grown into a full fledged people's war engulfing our entire three and a half million people. Our struggle has reached the stage where the initiative is ours, the balance of forces favors us—a stage where we are dealing the enemy decisive blows. Under the correct leadership of our vanguard organization, our heroic people's army, the Eritrean People's Liberation Army, our people's militia and our fighting masses are mercilessly razing Ethiopian colonial aggression in our country to the ground.

We have now liberated our entire country except for a very few cities. Even the few remaining enemy occupied cities are under the guns of our heroic people's army. In the vast areas we have liberated we have embarked upon the building of a new society. We have created the necessary material conditions for our people to take political power. On the basis of the principle of self-reliance we are mobilizing the material and human resources of our country to satisfy the needs of our revolution and our masses.

We are assisting and providing leadership to our peasant masses in their effort to own their land and dismantle the oppressive feudal system. Hundreds of schools have been opened for the sons and daughters of our country's workers and peasants. Extensive medical service is being made available for our masses in their millions.

The meaning of the struggle we are waging is such that our masses are the benefactors. Our struggle is a national democratic revolution to free our country from Ethiopian occupation and imperialist exploitation and to establish a people's democratic state in order to safeguard our people's basic interests. By politicizing, organizing and arming them we have involved our masses in the revolution so that they become its masters. Hence, the true meaning of our heroic struggle is for the realization of our people's age old aspirations—national independence and people's democracy.

The people's war being waged by the entire people of Eritrea under the correct leadership of the EPLF today is the direct continuation of our people's militant history and the highest form of our centuries old struggle against foreign invasion. It is a continuation of our people's heroic resistance to Turkish and Egyptian expansionism and Italian and British imperialist colonialism. Since 1952 when imperialism conspired through the use of the United Nations in forcibly annexing our country to feudal Ethiopia our people have been waging a life and death struggle against the Ethiopian occupationists and their imperialist and Zionist sustainers.

In 1961 gun blasts reverberated in the western lowlands of our country heralding the beginning of the armed struggle. The beginning of the armed struggle was an expression of our people's true sentiments for freedom and liberation. Needless to say, it lacked a clear political orientation. A clear program was not charted, the strategy and tactics of the revolution were not formulated. The clique that was leading the struggle which was composed of bourgeois, right-wing petty-bourgeois and feudalist elements only pursued the struggle for its narrow class interests and brought an incalculable amount of damage to our people's cause. Since the birth of the EPLF in 1970 however, the reactionary line that dominated the Eritrean liberation movement has been rectified.

The birth of EPLF was a new chapter in the history of our people's militant struggle. It meant the rebirth of the Eritrean struggle on a new revolutionary basis, on the basis of the national democratic line. The EPLF became the rallying force of the revolutionary and democratic forces of our people's liberation struggle. It aroused the deepest sentiments of the workers, peasants, the revolutionary intellectuals and other democratic forces of all the nationalities of our country. The EPLF's correct line and leadership has become the prime condition for the tremendous growth of our revolution. The Eritrean struggle has gone through many twists and turns and has traversed a difficult

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Rally in Canada

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and arduous road of bitter struggle. We have paid thousands of lives for freedom and true liberation. Many hurdles were placed in front of our revolutionary organization by the internal reactionaries and the Ethiopian aggressors. The internal reactionaries launched a counter-revolutionary civil war to nip the EPLF in the bud. There was no attempt that the Ethiopian aggressors have not made to liquidate our organization.

But the EPLF has and does represent the historical trend in our country. It is a revolutionary force born in struggle. It has been able to surmount the difficulties placed in front of it by its enemies. The EPLF has successfully shattered the obstacles created by the internal reactionaries. In the last eight years the EPLF has led our people's struggle from victory to victory.

Today, our people's revolutionary struggle led by our vanguard organization has become an ever advancing irresistible powerful force capable of smashing any machination regardless of its tenacity. The proof of this is the concrete revolutionary work we are undertaking in the Eritrean field; our uninterrupted brilliant victories over the Ethiopian aggressors, the profound social transformation that is taking place in our liberated areas, our efforts in organizing, politicizing and arming the masses of our people, and our efforts to reach self sufficiency in food and other necessities through the implementation of our motto of self-reliance.

The line we have developed in our national democratic program which was adopted by our historic First Congress is the basis for our victories. Our correct line has deeply touched the hearts and minds of our people. It is for the objectives laid down in our national democratic program that our fighting masses are prepared to pay any price.

The spirit of self-sacrifice prevails in Eritrea. Our people have acquired a wealth of revolutionary experience which has enabled them to make any sacrifice and withstand any hardship. In every battle fought against the Ethiopian occupation troops our masses—men, women and children—selflessly participate in support of the heroic EPLA defying the enemy's artillery barrages.

It is this spirit of sacrifice and determination of our people that makes our struggle irresistible. The spirit of heroism that has been imprinted in the minds of our people is the factor for our decisive victories.

Comrades, you are aware of the situation that has developed in our country today. The Soviet Union and Cuba have intervened on the side of the fascist Dergue against us. They have armed the junta with enormous quantities of sophisticated weapons. Most of these weapons are being used against us, against the just struggle of our people. Cuba has dispatched thousands of troops to our country's soil. The Soviet Union and Cuba are partners in the junta's big offensive being directed against our people. The U.S. imperialists are also plotting a conspiracy against our revolution. Thus, we are witnessing concerted efforts from many corners to bring our struggle to its knees. Many people may wonder as to what will be the fate of the Eritrean struggle.

In light of this we declare that we are not a bit disturbed by what is being aimed against us. We are fully confident that our just struggle will triumph. We are ready to battle anyone who wants to deny us our sacred rights. We have our entire people fully mobilized behind us. Our conscious and armed masses are our asset. With this asset we will undoubtedly win. We are prepared to defend the revolutionary gains we have won through seventeen years of heroic armed struggle. The EPLF is resolved to carry the struggle forward until every inch of Eritrean soil is liberated and the aspirations of our masses are realized.

Comrades,

We have risen up in arms to settle accounts with our enemies. From our long experience we are convinced that self-reliant protracted people's war is the only way to victory. Relying mainly on our forces, and with the support of all revolutionary forces the world over we are confident that our protracted people's war will take us to victory. We firmly reiterate that no matter what the odds, the EPLF will continue to carry high the banner of national liberation and of protracted people's war. At the same time we urge all our friends to follow what is in the making in our country and render us every possible support.

Long live the solidarity between the fraternal peoples of Canada and Eritrea!

Long live the revolutionary bond between the struggling peoples of the world!

Denounce US Imperialist Intervention in East Timor

Arming the fascist military regime of Suharto to the teeth not being enough, the U.S. imperialists have begun direct military intervention to crush the national liberation war of the people of East Timor. In a recent statement, FRETILIN has reported that American pilots are flying sophisticated war planes for the Indonesian aggressors in their attempt to stamp out the just struggle of the East Timorese people and bring East Timor under their colonial occupation.

The Indonesian aggressors have escalated their unjust and aggressive war against East Timor to the most savage level. Having failed to defeat FRETILIN, the Indonesian expansionists have resorted to wholesale massacres and intimidation of the civilian population. Towards this end they have been constantly bombing and shelling the liberated zones.

Unperturbed by the ferocity of the aggressors and their imperialist masters the people of East Timor led by FRETILIN are persevering in their heroic armed struggle, courageously resisting and defending the gains they have won. 90% of the country is

under the control of FRETILIN. The Indonesian aggressors' numerous attempts to take over the liberated areas have miserably failed.

Thus, the U.S. imperialists' direct intervention is a sign of the Indonesian aggressors' defeat. It shows their inability to suppress the East Timorese struggle. With all the sophisticated weapons given to them by the U.S. imperialists the Indonesian aggressors have failed to win in East Timor. Likewise, the coming of U.S. pilots and advisors is not going to change the course of the East Timorese struggle. The East Timorese people are bound to win.

The Association of Eritrean Students in North America strongly condemns the war of aggression being waged by the Suharto regime and the U.S. imperialists' intervention against East Timor. We call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. pilots and advisors from East Timor. At the same time reflecting the deep sentiments of EPLF and the Eritrean people we reaffirm our principled and firm support for the just struggle of the East Timorese people under the leadership of FRETILIN.

Junta Admits Disastrous Defeat in Eritrea

On June 7, 1978, the leader of the Ethiopian fascist junta in a nationwide speech on the situation in Eritrea admitted that his regime's colonial grip on Eritrea is being decisively broken by the Eritrean revolution. Enumerating the enormous human and material losses his regime has suffered in Eritrea, the junta leader angrily revealed that he has lost control of Eritrea. The fascist leader admitted that the Eritrean war has cost his regime \$1½ billion U.S.; "13,000 men in uniform have been killed;" that the Eritrean revolution "has made it impossible for produce of industrial enterprises—from being exported—and reach the hinterland;" that economic activity in Eritrea has been disrupted. Since all the roads connecting Eritrea with the Red Sea and Ethiopia are under the complete control of the Eritrean People's Liberation Army, supplies can only be airlifted and the presence of the aggressor troops is confined to a few besieged garrisons in five cities which are supplied only by airlift.

Everybody knows that the junta has always kept silent about its defeats in Eritrea. Let alone admit the big losses it has been suffering it did not even recognize the existence of the Eritrean liberation movement. It shamelessly presented the Eritrean revolution as "a handful of misguided bandits roaming the hills."

Is it not surprising then that "a handful of bandits" can inflict such a disastrous loss on the junta? The junta is a diehard chauvinist demagogue that wouldn't admit the facts. The whole world very well knows and the fascist leader Menghistu knows that the Eritrean revolution is a mighty force razing Ethiopian colonial occupation of Eritrea to the ground. The truth which the junta cannot hide is that the Eritrean revolution under the leadership of the EPLF is dealing the fascist junta decisive blows. The EPLF has liberated almost the entire country. The occupation troops are huddled in a few garrisons and are under the EPLA's constant attack. The final battles for the complete annihilation of the aggressor troops are coming. Tens of thousands of the occupation troops have been killed and over 6,000 are at present held by the EPLF as POWs. Implementing the slogan "destroy the enemy with his own guns and bullets" the EPLA has captured enormous amounts of heavy and light weapons, including M60 and T64 tanks from the enemy. It is with the captured weapons that the EPLA is defeating the enemy in the decisive battles. The

Eritrean revolution has completely shattered the enemy's economic order. Its back broken the enemy doesn't conduct any economic activity in Eritrea. Industrial and agricultural establishments have been nationalized by the EPLF and are serving the revolution. With the trucks, engines, agricultural and industrial implements and tools captured from the enemy, the EPLF is building the new Eritrean economy in the liberated areas. Small factories and workshops have been set up and agricultural production is being expanded in the liberated areas. The truth is that the Eritrean revolution is destroying the Ethiopian occupation in all its aspects. The fetters of Ethiopian colonialism, its political, economic, military and cultural aspects are being demolished. Ethiopian colonial occupation in Eritrea is speedily collapsing. What exists in most of Eritrea today is the new democratic order in which the Eritrean masses are exercising their dictatorship.

These are the undisputed facts. Menghistu's admission is only a loud cry of his disastrous defeat in Eritrea. Still more, the fascist leader very well knows that his total defeat in Eritrea is not far off. He will cry even louder but Eritrea will be completely liberated.

However, despite the crying over its losses in Eritrea, the junta still rigidly insists on a military solution and is at present undertaking a bloody campaign to liquidate the Eritrean revolution. In order to get a "consensus" for its only solution, i.e., military means, to the Eritrean question, the Dergue held a 10 day so-called "seminar on the Eritrean problem" beginning on June 16, 1978 in which all the high ranking government and military leaders including ambassadors participated. Naturally the outcome of the so-called "seminar" was a unanimous yes for violent aggression.

The junta has been badly beaten in Eritrea but refuses to learn from the unforgettable lessons. For that matter, no one expects it to learn from its mistakes since it is a die-hard reactionary force. Reactionaries never give up until their last breath. That is why the revolution has to finish them off.

The fascist junta will never give up its dangerous adventures in Eritrea. It will continue to pursue its genocidal policy until its complete defeat. And the Eritrean people will fight to the last to carry the people's war through to the end and wipe out every trace of Ethiopian colonialism.

Millions Endangered by Famine in Ethiopia

As the fascist junta in Ethiopia diverts the resources of the country for purchasing arms and to wage an unjust war in Eritrea and suppressing the people's struggle in Ethiopia, millions of Ethiopians are living a miserable life of hunger, disease and degradation. Just recently it has been reported that 1½ million Ethiopians are endangered by acute famine.

How is this to be explained when the fascist leader Menghistu says he has spent \$1½ billion U.S. to suppress the Eritrean national liberation struggle? The heart of the matter is that the junta has drained the resources of the Ethiopian people in order to wage a genocidal war against the Eritrean people and has left the Ethiopian masses in subhuman condition. The junta is spending millions for the Eritrean war while thousands of Ethiopians are dying of hunger. There is an acute food shortage. Severe malnutrition persists among the people. Hundreds are dying from the current famine in Wollo province:

The famine that is ravaging Ethiopia cannot be explained other than a premeditated genocide of the Ethiopian people which the fascist junta is perpetrating. Thus, the fascist junta's sham "socialism" is a cover for its true anti-people nature. Had the junta been socialist it would have first fed its people. The defunct autocratic regime of Haile Selassie was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of peasants during 1973-74. The fascists in power today are responsible for the present famine which is far worse than that of 1973-74.

The fascist junta will pay dearly for the crimes it is committing against the Ethiopian people. Haile Selassie mercilessly oppressed the Ethiopian people and pursued a policy of extermination in Eritrea. But he dearly paid for this. The Ethiopian masses rose up and the Eritrean liberation struggle advanced forward overthrowing and disgracing the Haile Selassie regime. The same is awaiting the fascist junta. Its criminal policies in both Ethiopia and Eritrea are leading to its downfall. The Ethiopian people's struggle and the Eritrean revolution together will undoubtedly bury the junta in its grave.

EPLA STRIKES INSIDE ETHIOPIA

On June 13, 1978, the Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA) crossed into the Ethiopian province of Tigray and routed the enemy troops in the Enticho garrison. In a surprise attack the EPLA killed 500 troops and captured 3 Russian-supplied tanks and 6 armored cars. The EPLA again made another attack on the town two days later and destroyed the enemy garrison of nine brigades. It destroyed several trucks and captured large quantities of heavy weapons.

Enticho, 25 miles from the Eritrean border, is one of the largest garrisons of the Ethiopian army stationed in Tigray which is poised for a large scale drive into Eritrea. Enticho is strategically located. It is a key point for controlling large parts of southern Eritrea and central Tigray.

Hence, EPLA's victory at Enticho is very significant. The EPLA has destroyed one of the enemy's strongholds in Tigray. It has striken terror into the hearts of the aggressor troops before they even set their feet on Eritrean soil. EPLA's daring action is a big setback for the fascist Dergue's current campaign of aggression against the Eritrean revolution.

The recent victory of EPLA is reminiscent of the decisive victory it scored over the junta's so-called "volunteer militia" in 1976. The EPLA will severely punish the tens of thousands of aggressor troops which are ready to invade Eritrea the way it smashed the fascist junta's huge invading force in 1976 before it entered Eritrean soil.

EPLA's victory demonstrates that the Eritrean revolution led by EPLF can effectively defend itself from any enemy aggression and that the EPLA is a strong revolutionary army capable of frustrating the Dergue's genocidal campaign and completely defeating the Ethiopian aggressor troops.

EPLF BEGINS PUBLISHING A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has recently begun publishing a weekly newspaper *Fitsametat*. *Fitsametat* is prepared in the liberated areas by the EPLF's Department of Information and Propaganda. The first issue which came out on May 21, 1978 carried news items and analysis on national and international events such as the successful conclusion of the first congress of the Association of Eritrean Students (AES), activities of the women residents of Afabet and the people's uprising in Iran among others.

The publication of *Fitsametat* is an important achievement in the field of information and propaganda. Through *Fitsametat* the EPLF will be able to inform the Eritrean masses about the multiple accomplishments of the Eritrean revolution and bring them closer to the revolutionary developments throughout the world. As the editorial in the first issue of *Fitsametat* stated, the aim of the newspaper "is to propagate the struggle being waged by the Eritrean masses in the political, military, economic and social fields; to present general world news, and to expose the enemy's propaganda. On the basis of factual news coverage and scientific analysis, our newspaper will make all efforts to acquaint our fighters and our people with revolutionary movements throughout the world."

At a time when almost the entire country is liberated and the people are under the administration of the EPLF-led new democratic state, *Fitsametat* will be an important and significant media in the hands of the EPLF. It will shatter the news blackout imposed by the fascist Dergue and combat the distorted news coverage carried by the imperialist media. At the same time, it will provide the Eritrean people with up to date national and international news reportage.

AFABET PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS SABBE CLIQUE

In the name of the residents of the city of Afabet the People's Assembly of Afabet on May 14, 1978 issued a declaration condemning the Sabbe clique, the so-called "third force." On the same day, the residents of the city led by their People's Assembly staged a big demonstration in condemnation of the Sabbe clique and in support of the agreement on national unity reached between EPLF and ELF.

The so-called "third force," the Afabet People's Assembly declaration said, "works against the interests of the masses and hence is rejected by the masses of our people." The statement declared, "condemning the so-called third force, we affirm that this force doesn't have a place in the Eritrean struggle." While strongly condemning the traitor Sabbe and his counter-revolutionary conspiracies the statement however called on the rank and file manipulated by the clique to join either of the two fronts (EPLF or ELF) in the Eritrean field and to line up with the patriotic struggle.

The Sabbe clique is a traitorous counter-revolutionary gang of scums laboring to impede the progress of the Eritrean revolution and working in the service of imperialism. It has been roundly exposed by the Eritrean masses for what it is, a reactionary, sell-out clique ejected by the forces of the revolution. All over the liberated areas in the villages and towns the masses have been taking to the streets and issuing declarations expressing their strong hatred and condemnation of the Sabbe clique. The Sabbe clique is a residue already thrown into the garbage heap of history.

EPLA FIGHTERS SUPPORT RADIO LIBERATION-ERITREA CAMPAIGN

The June 3 issue of the weekly EPLF newspaper *Fitsametat* has reported that the Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA) fighters have taken concrete steps in support of Radio Liberation-Eritrea. The fighters are taking the initiative contributing portions of their allowance for Radio Liberation. Members of the 4th Brigade 4.1 Battalion on the southern front have decided to save 15% of their monthly cigarette allowances for Radio Liberation. In their letter to EPLF's Department of Information and Propaganda the fighters expressed their deep appreciation of the efforts being made by AESNA and AEWNA in cooperation with progressive forces in North America and other parts of the world to raise funds for the establishment of a radio station in Eritrea. Fighters in other brigades on other fronts and members of the EPLF's mass organizations of workers, women, peasants and youth are also following suit.

The Eritrean masses consider the building of a radio station on their liberated soil as a service of great importance to their ongoing revolution. All the fighters and the masses are eagerly looking forward to the establishment of Radio Liberation. "When is Radio Liberation going to be set up?" is the question that every Eritrean asks.

AESNA and AEWNA are deeply moved by the determination and will of our fighting people and the heroic EPLA fighters to make Radio Liberation a reality. We, on our part, are resolved to struggle to the last to realize the objective of establishing the radio station. At the same time, we again call on all our friends to support us in this important task of our revolution.

Correction

In Selected Articles from Vanguard No. 2:

1. Page 8, third paragraph, nine lines from below that which says "The principle of self-reliance is, first and foremost, a question of" must be replaced by "In this manner, i.e., by tilting the balance of power between the."

2. Page 15, last line of second paragraph which reads "ed extensive losses on the enemy's side. However, this has not completely" must be replaced by "Because it has this nature its victory becomes certain."

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