



ERITREA IN STRUGGLE



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FIERCE BATTLES RAGING IN MASSAWA

10,000 AGGRESSOR TROOPS WIPED OUT 20 SOVIET T-54 TANKS CAPTURED

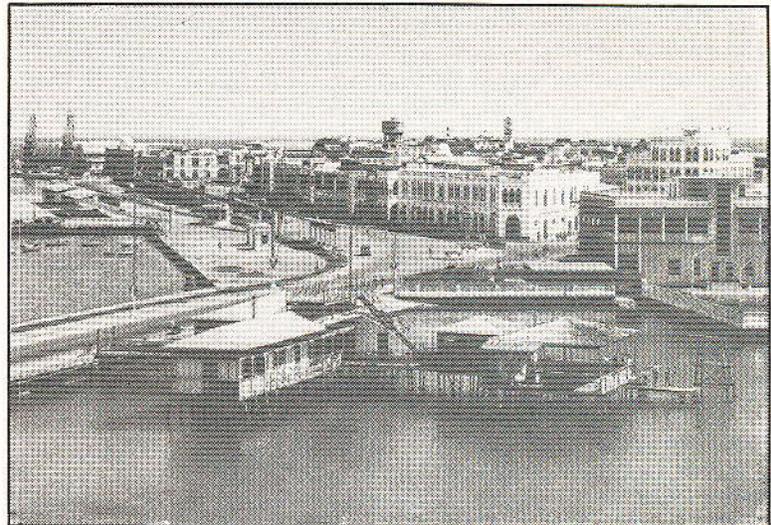
In the port city of Massawa, Eritrea's third largest city, the sun is rising on the side of the Eritrean liberation struggle and it is setting on the side of Ethiopia's war of aggression. The Eritrean People's Liberation Army is annihilating the more than 10,000 Ethiopian aggressor troops who are trapped in the aggressor's naval base in the harbor area. The EPLA has taken over the city except its island part and the peninsula of Girar where the Ethiopian aggressor's naval base is located. The battles are raging at the naval base and the dock area.

The raging battles in Massawa are the culmination of the series of battles that were fought between the EPLA and the Ethiopian occupation troops on the Asmara-Massawa road between November 21 and December 1, 1977 in which the EPLA killed 1,500 and captured 750 of the 15,000 aggressor troops that were involved in the battles, destroyed 3 Soviet T-54 tanks and captured huge quantities of heavy and light weapons.

The EPLA pursued after the retreating aggressor troops and on December 10 it routed a force of 5,000-8,000 aggressor troops in Dogali and took control of the only water supply of Massawa. In the brilliant victory in Dogali the EPLA captured 10 brand new Soviet T-54 tanks and large quantities of other large and small weapons. The EPLA continued its forward march into Massawa and by December 12 it had taken control of the airport, the fuel depot and most sections of the city. Later on, Tuwalet, the section which is adjacent to the island part of the city, was added to the list of liberated sections of the city. The battles continue to liberate the remaining two sections of the city, the island part and the peninsula of Girar and to completely smash the aggressor troops. In the battles to liberate Massawa the heroic EPLA has scored unprecedented

victories. As of December 24, the EPLA has killed over 1,500, wounded over 2,500 and captured 1,020 of the aggressor troops in Massawa. In addition it has captured 10 brand new Soviet tanks and other large quantities of weapons and destroyed three more Soviet tanks.

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The island part of Massawa: It will soon be liberated by EPLA

EPLF CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS SECOND REGULAR MEETING

The Central Committee of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front held its second regular meeting between November 16-20 1977 in the liberated areas. The Central Committee meeting broadly discussed and summed up the present situation of the Eritrean revolution and the situation in the Horn of Africa. The Central Committee discussed and analyzed the tasks accomplished since its first regular meeting which took place in early February, 1977 just after the successful conclusion of the historic First Con-

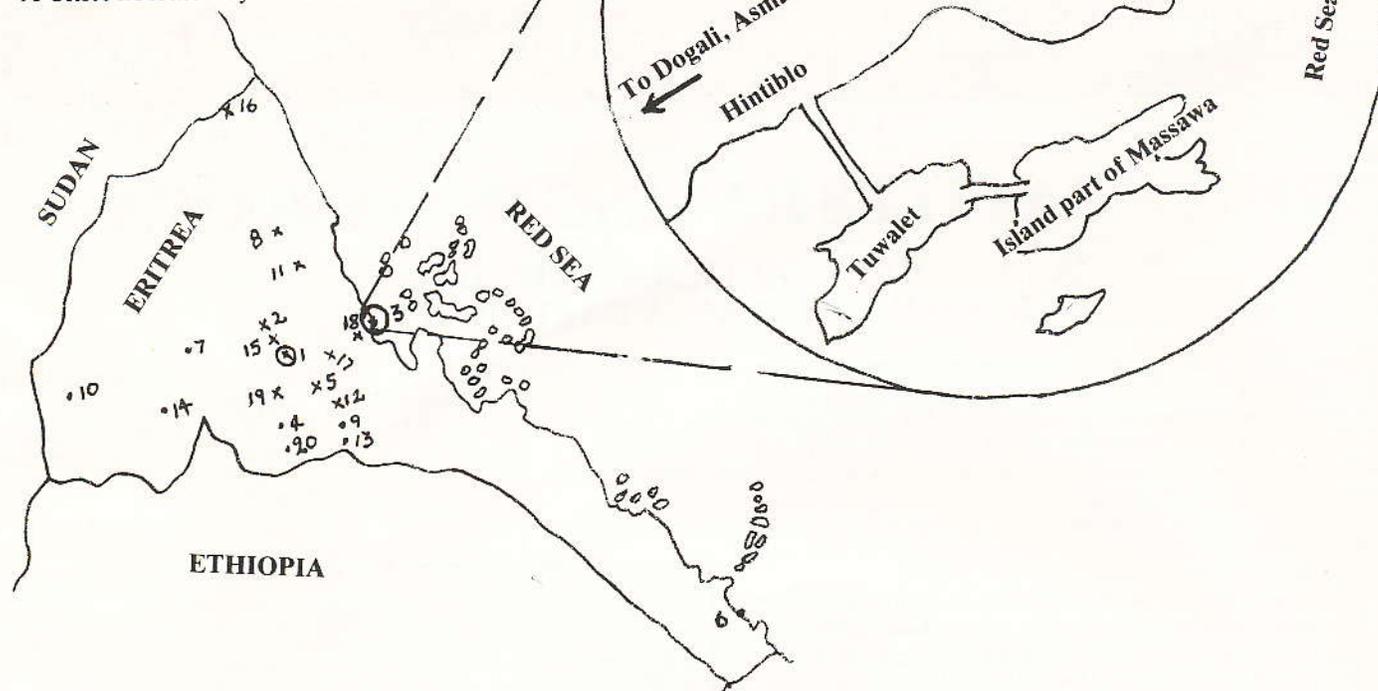
gress of the EPLF. It affirmed that the unprecedented victories achieved in the political, military, social and economic fields were the outcome of the concrete implementation of the national democratic program, the resolutions of the First Congress of EPLF and the guidelines outlined by its first regular meeting.

The EPLF Central Committee discussed and resolved the following important questions:

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- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1 Asmara | 11 Afabet |
| 2 Keren | 12 Segeneiti |
| 3 Massawa | 13 Senafe |
| 4 Mendefera | 14 Barentu |
| 5 Dekemhare | 15 Elabered |
| 6 Assab | 16 Karora |
| 7 Agordat | 17 Dongolo |
| 8 Nacfa | 18 Dogali |
| 9 Adi Caieh | 19 Debarwa |
| 10 Tessenei | 20 Adi Kuala |

X Cities liberated by the EPLF



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In another front the EPLA also attacked the Ethiopian aggressors' garrison at Adi Keih in the southern part of Eritrea. On December 12, it annihilated 1,800 aggressor troops and captured three armored cars in Addi Wegera one mile to the north of Addi Keih. At the same time the EPLA also pounded the Dongolo garrison of the aggressor troops which is located half way between Asmara and Massawa inflicting heavy losses on them.

The EPLA's unprecedented victory in Massawa will go down in the annals of our people's militant history. The heroism and courage displayed by the EPLA is in perfect line with the fervent patriotism and gallantry of our fathers and forefathers. The cause that our fathers and forefathers shed their blood for in the last 500 years to liberate our port city and drive the various aggressors out of the fatherland is being realized by the EPLF and our masses today. The great victory of the EPLA in Dogali on December 10, is a replay of our forefathers heroic victory in 1889 when they smashed a column of 500 invading Italian colonialist troops. In Dogali, our heroic grandfathers put up stiff resistance by cutting all the supply lines of the Italian aggressors.

The liberation of our port city will end 500 years of successive colonialist aggression. Our strategic country and especially its strategic sea coast with Massawa at the center has always attracted the greedy eyes of various expansionists and imperialist colonialists: the Ottoman Turks who occupied our port city in 1557, the Egyptian expansionists, the Italian colonialists who colonized our country by first taking control of our port city in the early 1880's, the British imperialists and the Ethiopian expansionists. Under Ethiopian occupation our port city has been used as a center of U.S. imperialist counter-revolutionary naval activities, as a training

center and a base of the Navy of the Ethiopian aggressors.

Massawa, Eritrea's largest port, is the site of a number of small factories and the center of salt production and the fish industry in Eritrea. It is also well known for its pearl.

The liberation of Massawa will be a severe blow to imperialist military and economic interests in the Eritrean sea coast in particular and the whole region in general. With the liberation of the only other enemy occupied port city, Assab, Eritrea will have its sea door closed to imperialist and expansionist intrusion. The liberation of our port cities will mean that our strategic 1,000 mile sea coast, our marine wealth and our territorial waters will be under the control of the EPLF for the service of our masses. Our sea shore from Ras Kassar in the north to Ras Damera in the south will be in our people's hands.

The EPLA's great victory in our port city brings our people's struggle closer to its complete victory. Massawa's complete liberation will be a prelude to the liberation of our country's capital city, Asmara, which is definitely going to happen in the not too distant future.

The victory in Massawa fills our fighting masses and all oppressed peoples with joy. On the other hand it is a humiliating defeat to our enemies, the fascist junta, imperialism, and all reactionaries. The EPLA's great victory in Massawa further testifies to the fact that no matter how many sophisticated weapons the Soviet Union gives the Ethiopian fascist junta and no matter how many troops Cuba and Zionist Israel train for the fascist junta our people led by EPLF will persist on the road of protracted people's war and will soon emerge victorious. No counter-revolutionary force can crush the Eritrean people's just, popular and revolutionary struggle. □

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY PROCLAIMED IN AFABET

Since its liberation on April 4, 1977 by the heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA), Afabet, the largest town in Sahel province and an important agricultural center, has seen fundamental social and political changes. The EPLF's wide scale political work and rigorous political struggle has brought tremendous social and political upheaval. Except for a handful of die hards, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has succeeded in organizing the 6,000 residents of the town. Mass organizations of workers, women, peasants, youth and a people's militia have been established. Women who have been subjected to the most crude feudal-patriarchal oppression are winning their rights in all aspects of life. The feudal and backward elements are losing in every battle front. The masses have established their dictatorship over their enemies.

The most important political victory opening a new chapter in the history of Afabet is the establishment of a people's assembly on November 9, 1977. The People's Assembly, delegated to administer the affairs of Afabet, was established by the mass organizations. Composed of sixteen standing and six alternate members, the People's Assembly has set out to undertake the following concrete tasks:

- 1) administration of the schools in the town now operated by EPLF
- 2) building of a reservoir in cooperation with EPLF fighters in order to satisfy the town's water needs,

- 3) formation of a relief association in order to provide grain and other help to the needy and the orphans,
- 4) construction of roads from Afabet to both Einn and Gulbub, and
- 5) building an assembly hall for use for mass meetings and other activities.

In order to solve the contradictions that may arise among the people through criticism and self-criticism as well as to give a rightful verdict on the conflicts that may arise and to give proper punishment to the anti-people elements a people's court has also been set up and has already begun carrying out its tasks properly. The People's Assembly is correctly handling the affairs of the residents of Afabet and safeguarding the interests of the oppressed masses.

The establishment of the people's assembly in Afabet is a microcosm of what is taking place in the villages, cities and towns throughout the liberated areas of Eritrea. The setting up of people's power is the cornerstone of the tasks confronting the Eritrean revolution and the EPLF. Having liberated the countryside and most of the cities the EPLF has laid the ground for the establishment of the people's democratic state in Eritrea. The Eritrean masses are establishing their power. The People's Assemblies in Afabet and other towns, villages and cities are the solid foundation of the people's democratic government in Eritrea which will be established in the not too distant future.

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- 1) *It made an understanding that although the second regular meeting of the Central Committee should have been held at the beginning of the month of August it was impossible because of the hot situation that prevailed and the intensive work required and because the Central Committee members were scattered in different places performing important duties.*
- 2) *It resolved that the basic expansion and consolidation of the base areas and the reorganization of the People's Army on a higher level have been completed; that great victories have been scored in external political activities.*
- 3) *It listened to, studied and analyzed reports of the foreign mission and the various departments of the political, military, social affairs and economic committees.*
- 4) *After a thorough study, it adopted the internal regulations and the principles of administration for the political bureau, the administrative principles of external offices, military regulations, guidelines for departments, and marriage rules, which the first regular meeting resolved to be drafted.*
- 5) *With regard to the question of unity of the two organizations, that is, EPLF and ELF, it ratified the November 20, 1977 agreement and in accordance mapped the plan for putting it into practice.*
- 6) *It charted out the future tasks and program of work in the various fields.*

The Central Committee meeting outlined the following tasks to be accomplished:

- 1) *To properly resolve social matters that need new solutions, especially social and economic tasks that have resulted from the revolutionary expansion in the liberated cities and areas.*
- 2) *On organizing the masses: for the masses to gain political power and be able to establish people's government, at this stage draw in the masses into the mass organizations in every*

zone so as to establish people's assemblies that will be the foundations of the people's power in future Eritrea.

- 3) *On national unity: taking the question of national unity as the main and fundamental one to fight against the political confusion created by various reactionaries and opportunists and bring about a unity that satisfies the interests and aspirations of the masses.*
- 4) *Raise the tested strategy of "liberating the land and the people step by step" to a higher level in order to deal the enemy the final and decisive blow.*
- 5) *To frustrate the machinations and empty slogans of the fascist Dergue (Ethiopian fascist junta): wage an intensive political campaign abroad and penetrate through and illuminate the political overcast created in the Horn of Africa under the guise of "anti-imperialism."*

Upon ending its deliberations the Central Committee issued a concluding declaration in which it reaffirmed to the fighters and the masses that as in the past the EPLF will courageously and unswervingly frustrate the machinations of the Ethiopian fascist junta and the conspiracies of the internal reactionaries and lead the revolution to victory and, called upon them to carry the struggle to a higher level. It expressed its support to the democratic forces in Ethiopia, and called on them to form a united front against the fascist Dergue.

The second regular meeting of the Central Committee of EPLF is historic. It was held on the eve of the liberation of our country from Ethiopian fascist occupation and imperialism. Its resolutions and guidelines will undoubtedly accelerate the victory of our people's revolutionary struggle.

AESNA hails the second regular meeting of the Central Committee of the EPLF vanguard and will struggle with all its might towards the implementation of its resolutions and guidelines. We are confident that the important guidelines of the Central Committee meeting will be fully implemented by the heroic fighters, the mass organizations and our fighting masses.

MASS RALLIES IN DEKEMHARE, SEGENEITI

The spirit of freedom and liberation fills the air in the liberated Eritrean cities and towns today. Having rid themselves of Ethiopian fascist occupation the Eritrean masses living in the liberated cities and towns are fully enjoying their democratic rights. The liberated towns and cities of Keren, Dekemhare, Segeneiti, Nacfa, Afabet, etc. have become centers where the Eritrean masses are staging huge rallies and demonstrations to assert their democratic rights, to voice their opinions and to express their will; to assert their popular and revolutionary power, and their dictatorship over their enemies. The masses are taking to the streets in tens of thousands to express their unbending support for their vanguard, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), and to express their deep hatred of their enemies. Mass rallies are held in villages, in the towns and in the cities to celebrate every victory won by the EPLF, every victory scored by the EPLA over the Ethiopian aggressor troops. With the unswerving support and leadership of the EPLF, the mass actions are organized by the mass organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth and students who are the main forces establishing the people's democratic administration. On its part, the EPLF, in accordance with its national democratic program, has declared to the masses that to demonstrate, to assemble, to speak freely is the inalienable right of the Eritrean masses and that it is the very same reason that it has been and is struggling.

In the past five months several mass rallies and demonstrations have been held in Keren, Segeneiti, Dekemhare, Nacfa, etc. in support of the EPLF, celebrating the victories won by the EPLF. Below are descriptions of some of the mass actions that took place in Dekemhare and Segeneiti.

DEKEMHARE

Since its liberation on July 6, 1977 by EPLF, Dekemhare, Eritrea's fifth largest city, has become the center of mass actions on the southern front. The residents of Dekemhare have held several mass rallies to hail the EPLF vanguard and to celebrate the brilliant victories it has been winning. In the months of August and September when the Ethiopian aggressor troops made repeated attempts to recapture Dekemhare the residents of the city besides selflessly supporting the EPLA frontline fighters by providing food and water, caring for the wounded and building feeder roads, demonstrated in the streets of the city rejoicing over every victory won by the EPLA.

On October 13, the residents of the city held yet another mass rally to celebrate the brilliant victory scored by the EPLA over the Ethiopian aggressor troops on October 12 on the Asmara-Massawa road. Singing revolutionary songs and shouting revolutionary slogans such as "Victory to the masses!" and "Our victory is certain!" the huge crowd marched through the wide avenues of the city. A brand new T-64 Soviet tank which was captured by the EPLA from the Ethiopian aggressor troops during the fierce battles of September 18-20, 1977 on the Asmara-Dekemhare road accompanied the marchers giving added color to the rally.

Afterwards the marchers gathered in the city's squares and danced all night long. Several speeches were read, one of which was delivered by a representative of the Association of Eritrean Students—Dekemhare Branch. The speaker stated, "We will struggle side by side with our vanguard organization, the EPLF. Without saying 'Now that Dekemhare is free we do not care' we ought to struggle until the rest of our cities are liberated and Ethiopian fascist occupation of our country is destroyed without a trace. Still more we will continue our liberation struggle to establish a people's government, a people's power in our country, Eritrea."

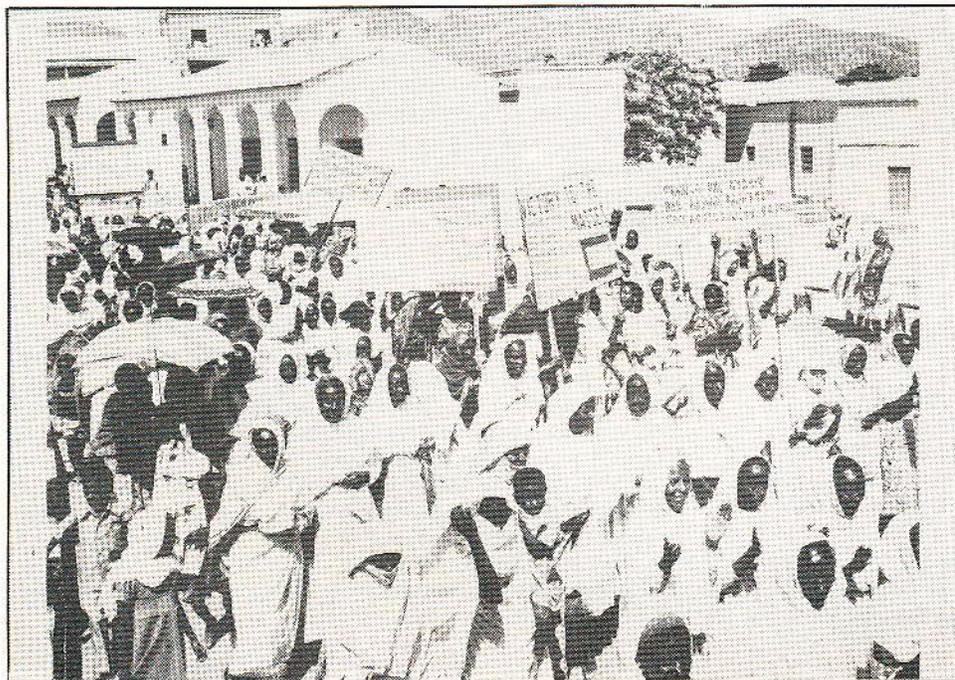
The rally began at 5:30 P.M. and lasted for the whole night. The city's lights remained lit throughout the night for the occasion.

SEGENEITI

On September 24, 1977, over 7,000 residents of Segeneiti and the surrounding area took to the streets to express their unflinching support of and their full confidence in their vanguard, the EPLF, and to celebrate its all round victories as well as to condemn the reactionary and opportunist forces in the Eritrean struggle.

The crowd paraded in the streets of Segeneiti dancing patriotic dances, singing revolutionary songs, carrying placards with revolutionary slogans and raising high the EPLF's flag and emblem. Mothers also joined in ululation. Several speeches as well as patriotic and revolutionary poems were read at the rally. The speech presented in the name of all eight of the participant villages and Segeneiti stated, "The reason that led us to organize this rally is to express our joy over the military and political victories being scored by our vanguard organization against the primary enemy of the Eritrean people as well as against the internal reactionary and opportunist forces. Moreover, we the residents of Segeneiti and the surrounding area as organized members of the EPLF also hold this

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A view of the women's demonstration in Keren

EITI AND KEREN IN SUPPORT OF EPLF

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rally to express our full confidence in the correct and clear principles of our vanguard organization as well as to voice our hatred of and opposition to the reactionary and opportunist forces who are shamelessly trying to take credit for and impede the victories being scored by the blood and sweat of the courageous revolutionary fighters of EPLF. On this occasion we would like to declare again that as part of the Eritrean masses, led and organized by our revolutionary organization, EPLF, and grasping the correct and scientific ideology it follows, we are ready to play our proper role and make the necessary sacrifices in the struggle against the fascist

occupation of our country, imperialism, feudalism and internal reaction."

The rally began at 10:00 A.M. and went well into the evening.

There have also been similar mass rallies and demonstrations in Keren and Dekemhare of which the largest were in support of the October 20, 1977 agreement on national unity signed by EPLF and ELF and the EPLF's principled stand on national unity. □

ASSOCIATION OF ERITREAN WOMEN FORMED IN KEREN

November 1, 1977 which formally marked the foundation of the Association of Eritrean Women—Keren branch (AEWK) was vigorously celebrated in Keren. Over 6,000 Eritrean women, young and old, from all zones of Keren, demonstrated in the streets of the city to hail the formation of their organization. On this important occasion more than 20,000 people, most of them members of the sisterly mass organization of workers, peasants, students and youth in Keren, also marched in the streets in support of AEWK and the women's demonstration. The demonstration was organized by the newly formed AEWK with the full support of the EPLF.

Women fighters of the EPLF led the march as captured Soviet and U.S. tanks and armored cars rolled in front. The women demonstrators sang militant songs in praise of EPLF and carried placards with revolutionary slogans. Some of the slogans read, "Without the full participation of women a free and progressive society can not be created," "Let the Association of Eritrean Women blossom all over Eritrea," "Equality through struggle, equality through participation in production," "The women of Keren solidly rally behind the EPLF vanguard," "Women struggle alongside progressive national democratic forces," etc. In the midst of the march, Soviet T-54 tanks, newly captured by EPLF from the Ethiopian occupation troops on the Asmara-Massawa Road rolled into the city of Keren adding more jubilation to the women's demonstration.

Later in the evening the demonstrators assembled in the city stadium where a militant rally was held. Speeches on the role of Eritrean women in the national democratic revolution and on the necessity of organizing and arming women were given by a member of EPLF's Political Bureau and representatives of AEWK. The masses of women participated vigorously by speaking freely and militantly on the oppression of women and the path towards their emancipation. One of the women demonstrators presenting her views in a poem stated,

*We the women of Keren
As part and parcel of Eritrean women
From Turkish to Ethiopian colonialism
Have lived through foreign aggression and double oppression*

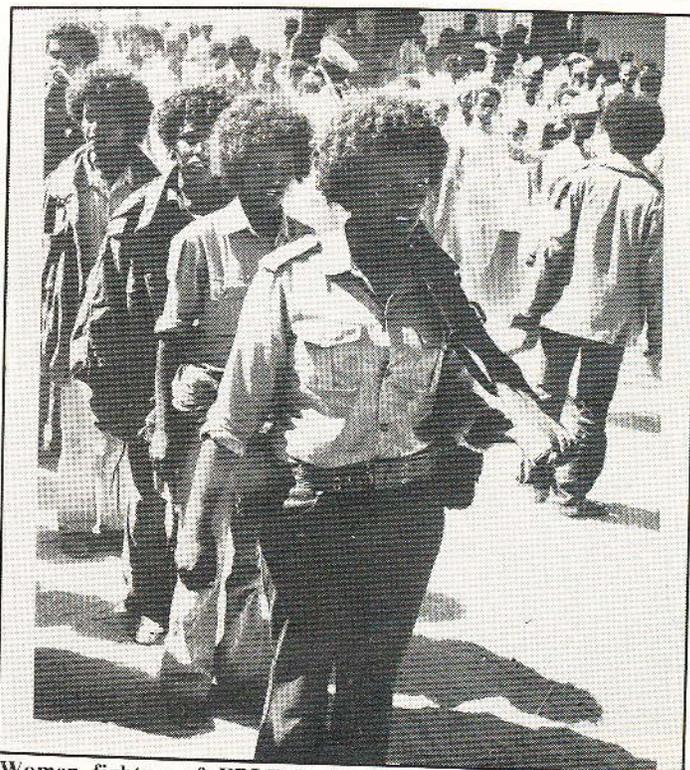
*The first, colonialism, we face with our people
the second, supremacy of our brothers*

*Rise, Women of Eritrea
We'll be liberated from oppression and misery
Not through slogans but we'll prove it in practice
Even today, we can see the foundations for our liberation*

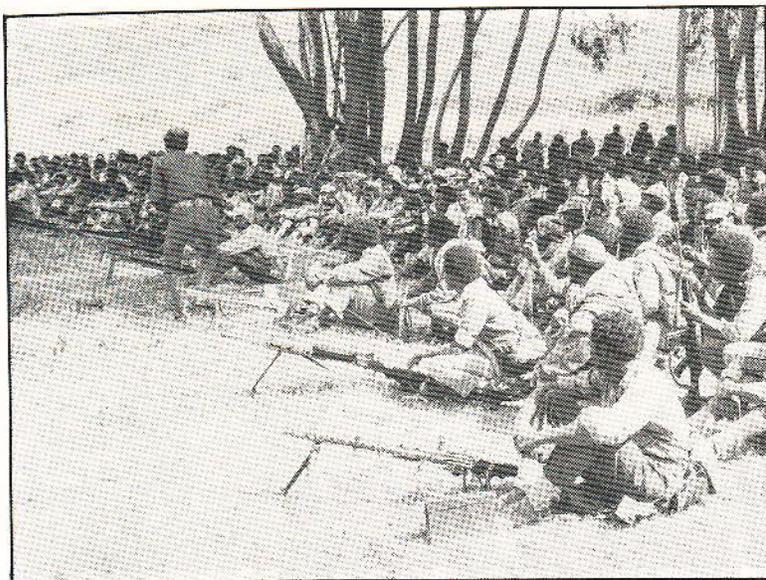
*Women, let us unite, get organized, and armed
Lest we be found weaker than men
Only after this, will men believe in our equality.*

On this significant occasion, the masses of women contributed money towards the operation of the city schools. In a revolutionary spirit the women demonstrators pledged to struggle side by side with their male comrades to free their country from Ethiopian fascist occupation and towards the building of a just society.

The formation of AEWK is an important achievement in the EPLF's task of organizing the Eritrean masses and in particular Eritrean women. The formation of the AEWK and the women's demonstration are big victories for the struggle of Eritrean women. The EPLF has secured women their rightful position in the Eritrean revolution. Eritrean women who have for long suffered colonial and feudal patriarchal oppression are today lifting their heads and playing an active role in the revolution. At home and abroad Eritrean women are building and consolidating their own mass organization, the Association of Eritrean Women, and are heightening their struggle against Ethiopian fascist occupation, imperialism and feudalism. □



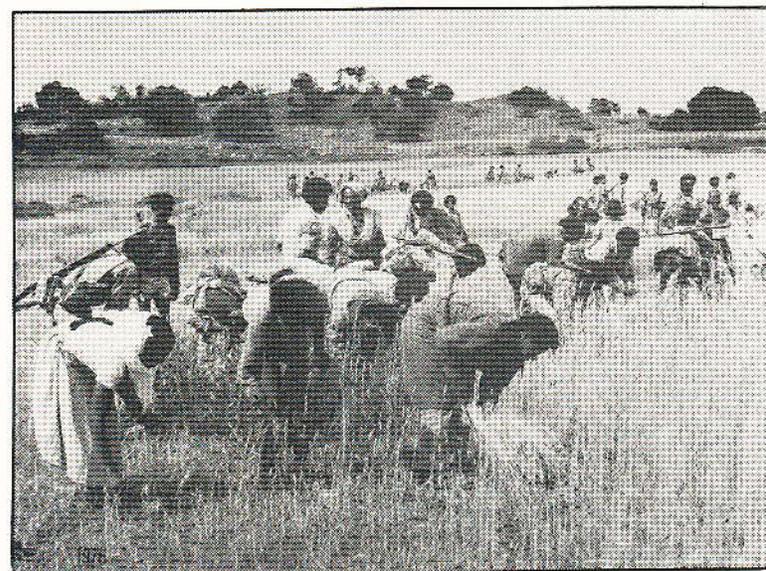
Women fighters of EPLF in the forefront leading the women demonstrators in Keren



The EPLA in preparation to attack the Ethiopian aggressor troops



Several U.S. and Soviet tanks captured from the Ethiopian aggressors are in the hands of our masses



"Self reliance is the key to our victory"—EPLF

1977: A HIST

1977 witnessed a revolutionary upsurge in the struggle of the working and oppressed peoples throughout the world. On the other hand it witnessed setbacks and failures on the side of imperialism and all reactionaries. Imperialism and all reaction were dealt heavy blows by the combined force of the national liberation struggles in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the working class struggle in the capitalist countries and the socialist countries.

In Eritrea, under the leadership of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and its army, the heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Army, the Eritrean revolution won unprecedented and earthshaking victories in 1977. Every day, every week and every month of the year, the EPLF recorded great military, political, social and economic achievements, bringing the Eritrean people's struggle closer to its goal of national independence and liberation. The year 1977 will always be remembered as a historic year of unprecedented victories in the long and militant history of our heroic people and especially the glorious 16 years of armed struggle.

The many successes and victories of the Eritrean revolution in the last year are in turn aspects of great defeats, disappointments and failures for the Ethiopian occupationists, imperialism and internal reaction. 1977 was a year of devastating defeats for the Ethiopian fascists' war of aggression in Eritrea.

The spectacular victories in 1977 were the precedents of things that began with the setting on fire of a fuel depot in Massawa that contained 45,000,000 liters of fuel by EPLF fighters on December 31, the last day of 1976 which the EPLF called "a flaming torch of welcome for 1977."

The EPLF's political, military, social and economic achievements of 1977 are astounding. The most significant political victory in 1977 is the historic First Congress of the EPLF which was held in the liberated areas in January 1977. The EPLF Congress is the first democratic congress in the history of the Eritrean revolution. It adopted the revolutionary national democratic program and passed important resolutions. As the EPLF put it, the historic First Congress has "ushered in a new stage of great development and brilliant achievements and brought forth the finest days of our revolutionary organization."

In the ideological and political struggle between the revolutionary and reactionary forces of the Eritrean struggle, the thoroughgoing revolutionary forces led by the EPLF have won decisive victories over the reactionary elements. The reactionary elements have been further isolated and exposed. The pro-U.S. imperialist Sabbe clique has been fully exposed and isolated. On the question of national unity, through the relentless struggle by the Eritrean masses and all patriotic fighters and the EPLF's correct line positive steps forward have been registered.

The EPLF has further developed and strengthened its work of politicizing, organizing and arming the masses. Strong mass organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth and students have blossomed throughout Eritrea. Abroad, the Associations of Eritrean Workers, Students and Women in the Middle East, Europe and North America have intensified their struggle and strengthened their unity with the mass organizations at home. In the liberated villages, towns and cities the masses have set up their people's assemblies and are managing their daily affairs. The solid foundation of tomorrow's democratic Eritrea has taken definite shape.

In the military front, with the liberation of Karora on January 6 and with the siege of Nacfa since September 1976, the EPLF opened a general offensive to liberate the towns and the cities. The things that were to come followed. The EPLA implementing the art of people's war liberated city after city in an unprecedented way. Cities and towns of major strategic and economic importance, the towns and cities of Nacfa, Afabet, Ela Bered, Debarwa, Dekemhare, Keren and Segeneiti, fell to the EPLF one after the

ORIC YEAR

other like ripe fruits.

Although the aggressor troops made repeated attempts to attack the liberated areas in the south and to break through EPLA lines on the Asmara-Massawa road, they failed miserably. The EPLA and our heroic masses routed the aggressor troops in raging battles inflicting severe human and material losses on them.

At the moment the EPLA is annihilating the fascist occupation troops in Massawa. Asmara, our country's capital city, is also tightly encircled with all the roads leading to it sealed off by the EPLA.

With the countryside and most of the cities liberated now the Ethiopian aggressor troops are pinholed in Asmara and Assab awaiting their final and complete defeat. It has indeed become impossible for the reactionary junta and its supporters to turn the tide in their favor. Despite the Soviet Union's massive airlift of sophisticated weapons to the Ethiopian fascists the Eritrean liberation forces have maintained their absolute superiority. The enormous military hardware bestowed to the junta by the Soviet Union and East Germany are being daily knocked down like toys. The fascist junta's "all out offensive" mustering its Cuban and Israeli trained so-called "people's militia" was a fiasco. The aggressor troops were routed in battle after battle, thousands of them killed and taken prisoners.

At the same time the EPLF has captured enormous quantities of Soviet and U.S. military hardware from the occupation troops. The several U.S. M-41 and M-60 and Soviet T-54 and T-64 tanks, the thousands of U.S. M-14 and M-16 and Soviet Kalachnikovs and other large quantities of heavy and light weapons captured in the battlefields are in the hands of the EPLA, the EPLF's People's Militia and our masses turned against the aggressors.

The military victories won in 1977 have no parallels in the history of our people's liberation struggle.

In the liberated areas the EPLF has launched extensive educational, medical and economic programs and has opened extensive bus lines to serve the masses. The number of schools has been greatly increased. The EPLF is daily engaged in eradicating illiteracy among the workers and peasants through mass education and is caring for and educating the children of our heroic martyrs and the children of our fighters and the masses.

Equally in the medical field, the EPLF has built more hospitals in the liberated areas and trained more "barefoot doctors" tending to the medical needs of the masses. It has made an extensive campaign to educate the masses in preventive medicine and to eliminate communicable and other diseases through inoculation and vaccination.

The EPLF has also achieved great success in the important task of leading the peasant masses in agrarian revolution. It is implementing the slogan "land to the tiller," and, by politicizing and organizing the landless, poor and middle peasants into peasant associations, it is leading them in the arduous class struggle for their political and economic rights. Once organized and politicized, the peasants have themselves initiated land reforms that are of historic proportions in the Eritrean countryside. The EPLF has armed the peasants by forming people's militias to defend the gains they have won.

In all its revolutionary work among the masses and in executing the tasks of the revolution the EPLF has courageously implemented the revolutionary principle of self-reliance. It has established a large number of workshops and small industries and reclaimed large tracts of land for agricultural produce to both cater to the daily needs of the masses and the revolution. In doing so the liberated areas have become self-reliant in many respects and a larger percentage of the food needs of the fighters and the people has been met from inside the country.

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Politicized, organized and armed the Eritrean masses are asserting their popular power: women's demonstration held in Keren on November 1, 1977



Raising the technical level of the masses—typing class in the liberated areas



Rebuilding demolished houses in Dekemhare

HAIL THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ERITREAN STUDENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Under the slogan "Struggle for a democratic student movement, struggle towards the establishment of a single national democratic front in the Eritrean field through the road of the united front" the founding congress of the Association of Eritrean Students in the Middle East (AESME) was held in Kuwait from October 23-29, 1977. Delegates from the study groups that were formed in the past two years in Kuwait, Iraq, Cairo and Libya participated in the congress. Representatives of the EPLF's Department of Mass Organizations as well as delegates from both the Association of Eritrean Women and the Association of Eritrean Workers in Kuwait also attended the congress. The seven day long congress broadly discussed the present situation of the Eritrean revolution and the historical development of the Eritrean student movement in the Middle East. It passed important resolutions on national, organizational, as well as international questions and elected a provisional general secretariat with seven members to take up the leadership of the organization.

The first Congress of AESME resolved to adhere to the revolutionary political line of the EPLF, praised the EPLF for the brilliant victories it is winning over the Ethiopian fascist occupation troops and expressed its pride of the EPLF's remarkable achievements in the political, military, social and economic fields. On the question of national unity the Congress resolved to work hard towards forging unity between EPLF and ELF, supported the October 20, 1977 agreement on national unity signed by EPLF and ELF and at the same time condemned the activities of the internal reactionaries who are trying to impede the advance of the revolution. On the organizational front the Congress resolved to form the AESME with the study groups in Iraq, Libya, Cairo and Kuwait as its chapters. The Congress resolved to struggle for the unity of the Eritrean student movement on a correct democratic basis and to unite and work closely with the Association of Eritrean Students in North America, Europe and Eritrea.

The successful founding congress of the AESME is an important victory for the revolutionary and democratic forces of the Eritrean struggle at home and abroad in general and for the democratic and progressive Eritrean student movement in particular. It is a big blow to the reactionary elements who had for long dominated the Eritrean student movement in the Middle East through backward sentiments and by creating divisions among the Eritrean student masses in the Middle East. The AESME will rally patriotic and democratic Eritrean students in the Middle East behind the EPLF and will enable them to play an active rôle in the Eritrean revolution.

The formation of the AESME has been achieved through years of protracted struggle within the Eritrean student movement in the Middle East between the democratic and reactionary elements; and the EPLF's efforts in organizing the Eritrean refugees, students, workers and women in the Middle East.

The Eritrean student masses in the Middle East have expressed

their wholehearted support for the Eritrean people's armed struggle ever since its inception. However, their revolutionary potential was left untapped until the formation of the EPLF in 1970. The reactionary Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) leaders instead of politicizing and organizing the students did everything to confuse, divide and use the student movement as a tool for furthering their reactionary interests. The so-called General Union of Eritrean Students (GUES) which was formed in 1968 under the leadership of a reactionary pro-ELF clique has been a mere tool of the ELF leaders. In 1970, when the Eritrean People's Liberation Front was formed GUES split into two groups, GUES (Cairo) which supported the EPLF and GUES (Bagdad) which continued supporting the ELF. Although GUES (Cairo) supported the EPLF and condemned the liquidationist civil war which was declared by the reactionary ELF leaders, it was dominated by a reactionary pro-Sabbe clique. In January, 1976, following the infamous "Khartoum Agreement" between the ELF leaders and the Sabbe clique the two GUES groups merged and declared their support for the reactionary Khartoum Agreement. The democratic students within GUES (Cairo) who had been opposing the Sabbe clique and its representatives in the student organization condemned the January 1976 merger of the GUES groups and denounced the "holy alliance" between the Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders and their Khartoum Agreement. The democratic students sided with the EPLF and decided to work closely with the democratic Eritrean mass organizations abroad; the Eritrean for Liberation in Europe (EFLE) and Eritreans for Liberation in North America (EFLNA). Since then the democratic students have been waging militant struggle exposing the reactionary line of the ELF and the counter-revolutionary Sabbe clique and their representatives in the student movement. They set up study groups in Kuwait, Iraq, Libya and Cairo mobilizing the student masses behind the EPLF.

Thus the formation of the AESME is a culmination of the protracted struggle between the reactionary and democratic lines within the Eritrean student movement in the Middle East. The democratic students have won the battle. They have now formed a new organization representing the democratic and patriotic students and shattering the reactionary elements. The reactionary elements are exposed and isolated. The Eritrean students in the Middle East have founded their democratic mass organization under the correct leadership of the EPLF and are playing an active role in our people's heroic revolutionary struggle for national independence and people's democracy.

AESNA hails the formation of the AESME as an important victory for the democratic Eritrean student movement in the Middle East. The formation of the AESME is a concrete reflection of the solid unity of the patriotic and revolutionary forces of the Eritrean revolution around the EPLF and of the conscious, organized participation of the Eritrean masses in the struggle for national salvation and liberation.

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The policies of self-reliance and politicizing, organizing and arming the masses are also being effectively implemented in the newly liberated cities. The EPLF has taken appropriate measures to rebuild the liberated towns and cities and to meet the food and other needs of the masses. Fundamental changes in city administration and in economic life are taking place and city services have been fully restored. The masses of urban dwellers have rallied

around the EPLF. 1977 was the year of great mass rallies and demonstrations in the liberated cities unprecedented in Eritrean history.

Internationally, the Eritrean revolution in general and the EPLF vanguard in particular have gained great prestige and admiration among the revolutionary and progressive peoples of the world. More and more progressive forces throughout the world are coming in support of the Eritrean revolution. By forcefully at-

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WESTERN SAHARA—POLISARIO CLOSE TO VICTORY

Today, two years after the joint annexation of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic by the two neighboring, reactionary, imperialist puppet, expansionist regimes of Morocco and Mauritania on imperialist instigation, the Saharan people, led by the courageous POLISARIO are dealing heavy blows to the aggressors militarily and have isolated them politically.

Morocco and Mauritania, claiming that there doesn't exist an independent Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, but an area that historically belonged to them invaded the country with military might. Claiming that there doesn't exist a Sahouri people they labeled the legitimate organization leading the Sahouri people as "bandits." With the latest war machinery supplied by the French imperialists to the annexationists the people of Western Sahara are faced with a savage genocidal campaign.

However, despite the two-pronged attacks by the invader regimes the people of Western Sahara under the leadership of POLISARIO are successfully defeating their enemies with dauntless courage and determination. Presently POLISARIO forces have virtual control of the whole country having forced the invading troops to a few large Saharan towns. Following the October 14, 1977 POLISARIO attack on Moroccan paratroopers in the mainland 146 Moroccan troops were killed. The recent battle in Mauritania occupied Western Sahara has caused heavy casualties on the aggressor troops. The POLISARIO has mobilized the whole population in the fight for survival as a people.

Shaken by the growing victories of the POLISARIO, the French imperialists have promised the reactionary Moroccan regime 50 Mirage fighter planes and 44 bombers. To prepare for fresh aggression, France has sent troops to its military base near Dakar.

POLISARIO scored an important political and diplomatic victory in the U.N. during the November 1, 1977 presentation of POLISARIO's case to the Decolonization Committee. At this meeting it was resolved that the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic is a nation that was annexed by the two expansionist neighboring states of Morocco and Mauritania. It was also reiterated that it is only POLISARIO that has the legitimate right to speak for the Sahouri people. For the Moroccan and Mauritanian expansionists and their backers who always maintained that Western Sahara is "the internal affair of their country" and that POLISARIO is nothing but "a bunch of bandits", POLISARIO's diplomatic victory was a bitter pill to swallow.

The struggle of the Sahouri people against annexation and for national liberation is a just struggle that deserves the support of progressive and democratic forces of the world. The Eritrean people led by EPLF and the Sahouri people led by POLISARIO are fighting against similar enemies, the imperialist puppet states of Ethiopia, Morocco and Mauritania. The two peoples are determined to persist on the road of protracted people's war and their victory is certain.

SWAPO WIPES OUT 80 SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSOR TROOPS AMIDST IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACIES

In a recent statement the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) which is leading the Namibian people's armed struggle against the occupation of their country by racist South Africa and its imperialist backers reported that it wiped out more than 80 South African fascist occupation troops. The battles were fought in the northern part of Namibia from which SWAPO fighters have driven out the South African racist aggressors. The SWAPO fighters have captured large quantities of weapons.

In the mean time the racist South African regime and its imperialist backers, the U.S., British, French, West German and Canadian imperialists, are hatching a plot to suppress the Namibian people's struggle and crush SWAPO. Talks are going on between the U.S., French, British, West German and Canadian

imperialists to send an interventionist force to Namibia under the guise of a "U.N. peace keeping force." The plan is to install a neo-colonial regime in Namibia in order to secure the interests of the South African racists and the imperialists, and to suppress the true aspirations of the Namibian people and to crush their heroic struggle for genuine freedom and independence.

But we are confident that SWAPO and the Namibian masses will courageously and steadfastly foil the imperialist machinations. The recent victory demonstrates that the Namibian people led by SWAPO are determined to persist in protracted armed struggle until final victory. The Namibian people will certainly be victorious. □

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tacking imperialism at one of its weakest links, the Eritrean revolution has strengthened the position of the revolutionary forces in the world and weakened the position of imperialism and all reaction.

The unprecedented victories of 1977 are first and foremost the results of the political clarity and correct leadership of the EPLF, its success in consolidating the unity of the revolutionary and patriotic forces under its leadership, its correct approach towards the democratic questions of the masses, its policy of self-reliance and of liberating the country and the people step by step. It is precisely due to this political clarity and correct leadership of the EPLF that the Eritrean revolution is emerging triumphant. All hurdles in front of the success of the revolution are being smashed with the mighty force of the fighting Eritrean masses. It is only from this perspective of a clear and principled political line and leadership of the EPLF vanguard and the unity of the masses that we can understand and appreciate the many achievements of the revolution in 1977—no doubt a very important year in the history of the Eritrean revolutionary struggle.

As we enter 1978 we are confident that our fighting masses led by EPLF will even score more victories, that our cities still under the occupation of the Ethiopian fascist forces will soon be liberated

and the final victory of our people's struggle will be realized.

Today is the eve of our country's complete liberation, the eve of the establishment of democratic Eritrea. □



Awetna nai giddin iyu!
Our victory is certain!

NEWS FROM THE LIBERATED AREAS IN BRIEF

YOUTH OF KEREN ENGAGE IN PRODUCTION

The youth of Keren are actively taking part in the political, economic and social tasks being undertaken in the city. Their mass organization, the Association of Eritrean Youth—Keren Branch, is in the forefront of the vigorous campaign to rebuild a prosperous Keren. In the past few months since the city's liberation the youth of Keren enthusiastically implementing the EPLF's call and guidelines to participate in production have accomplished various productive tasks.

In the month of November over 400 young men and women turned up to undertake the work of mowing, weeding and amassing hay and picking orange fruits on a 25 hectare orange plantation. Earlier in the month of October, the youth waged a five day cleaning campaign in which they cleared the compound of the power electric station of weeds, repaired the damaged roads of the city and cleaned the compound of the central hospital.

The exemplary productive activities of the youth of Keren are a concrete manifestation of the EPLF's success in instilling the spirit of work in the Eritrean youth. The productiveness of the youth reflects the EPLF's efforts in mobilizing and organizing the Eritrean youth. The EPLF is bringing up the young generation in a revolutionary way in order to carry the revolutionary torch forward—to guarantee the continuity of the revolution.

Ever since its inception the EPLF has given special attention to the youth of Eritrea. The most important achievement in the EPLF's work among the youth is the thousands of **vanguards** it has brought up in the flames of the armed struggle. The EPLF has succeeded in enthusiastically rallying the youth of Eritrea.

EPLF OPENS NEW BUS LINES

The EPLF has tremendously expanded its transport services for the masses by opening more bus lines in the liberated areas. The 1500 km. "Liberation Road" constructed by EPLF fighters in 1975, the additional feeder roads linking liberated villages and towns constructed since then and all the asphalted roads joining the cities which the EPLF now completely controls are in full service of the revolution and the masses.

By the month of August, 1977 the EPLF had opened bus lines from Tzorona to Seharti in the south, from Keren to the suburbs of Asmara and from Afabet to Naefa and Karora. Lately additional bus lines have been opened: Keren-Aderade-Mensura, Keren-Afabet, Dekemhare-Segeneiti-Digsa, Dekemhare-Tzorona, and Dekemhare-Asmara suburbs.



The bus station in Keren

EPLF PUBLISHES A NEW JOURNAL

The EPLF has begun publishing an important new journal entitled **Labor**. **Labor** is a bi-monthly published by the EPLF's Department of Economy.

The first issue of **Labor** contained articles dealing with the role of the EPLF and the masses in the field of economic activity, an introductory note on political economy, the economic features of neo-colonialism, a short summation of the tasks accomplished by all the branches of the Department of Economy, on modern road building from the pages of Eritrean history and an interview with EPLF fighters on the overall achievements and tasks of the revolution in the economic field.

Along with the other journals, **Labor** will play an important role in disseminating revolutionary theory and raising the level of consciousness of the Eritrean masses in general and the Eritrean working class in particular. It is an important weapon in the hands of the EPLF for exposing and fighting the ugly faces of imperialism and feudalism. On the other hand, it will present to the masses the concrete achievements and practical outcome of the implementation of the revolutionary principle of self-reliance on the economic front.



EPLF BRANCH OF CULTURE TOURS PROVINCE OF BARKA

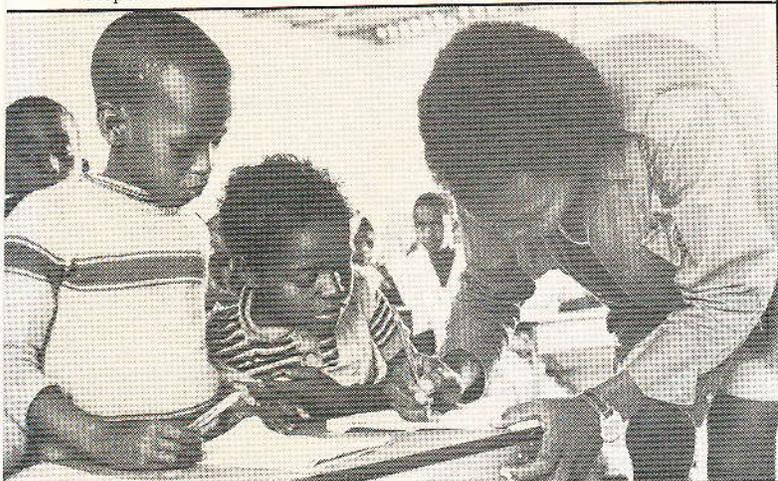
Since the conclusion of the historic First Congress of the EPLF in January 1977, the EPLF Branch of Culture has been touring the liberated areas of Eritrea performing revolutionary songs and dances from all the Eritrean nationalities for the masses. Between November 8-10, it toured the province of Barka and presented vigorous cultural shows to the residents of Mensura, Hagaz and Hirakuk. In Hagas ELF fighters joined in with the masses and the EPLF fighters and participated in the night long cultural event in the spirit of comradeship.

In its tour of Barka the Branch of Culture was warmly welcomed everywhere and aroused in the masses strong support for the EPLF vanguard.

The EPLF Branch of Culture is an important concrete achievement of the EPLF in the cultural field. As the EPLF's main organ for disseminating revolutionary culture among the masses the Branch of Culture is arousing and raising the cultural level of the masses. The Branch of Culture is effectively popularizing the militant culture and history of our people, their revolutionary combativeness and heroism. It has become instrumental in solidifying the unity of the Eritrean masses of all nationalities in the struggle for national salvation and liberation.

REVOLUTION SCHOOL RESUMES SECOND SCHOOL YEAR

After two and a half months of recess the Revolution School began its 1977-78 school year on October 9, 1977. The Revolution School which was established by the EPLF in January 1976 is a boarding school for the children of martyrs, nomads and the displaced.



The Revolution School is bringing up a young generation with a revolutionary outlook

This year 910 students are enrolled in the school most of whom are between 6-15 years old attending grades one through four. Those between 2-5 years old whose parents were murdered by the Ethiopian aggressor troops are in the kindergarten.

During the recess the students took a touring trip over all the liberated areas of their country in order to learn practical lessons from the masses. After the trip they were assigned to different areas of handicraft and production activities in which they translated their theoretical knowledge into practice. The students were engaged in such production activities as making ropes from barks of trees, tanning hides, making pots and pans from food cans, candles from fats, reconstructing houses and working on their vegetable garden. Some of them were also given practical lessons in drawing skills. The older students also worked in the machine shop and carpentry branches of the EPLF Department of Cottage Industries.

The Revolution School is a significant achievement of the EPLF in the field of education. It is a model which the EPLF plans to adopt all over Eritrea. The young students who are growing in the Revolution School are a new breed, a new generation, ready to carry the revolutionary torch forward. □

EPLF & ELF HOLD TALKS ON NATIONAL UNITY

The EPLF and ELF met in the liberated areas between November 27-30, 1977 to further discuss the principles they agreed upon in their October 20th meeting and the methods of implementing them. An understanding was reached on a number of important points but some questions still remain to be studied. Hence the meetings between the two fronts will continue in the future.

FASCIST JUNTA NAPALMS LIBERATED AREAS

The Ethiopian fascist junta's humiliating defeats at the hands of the EPLF, the heroic EPLA and our masses has driven it to frenzy. Hopeless to maintain their grip on Eritrea, the Ethiopian fascist occupationists, with the all out support of the Soviet Union which is supplying them with the sophisticated weapons they are using in their war of aggression in our country, have resorted to out and out fascist and desperate acts to commit mass genocide of our people.

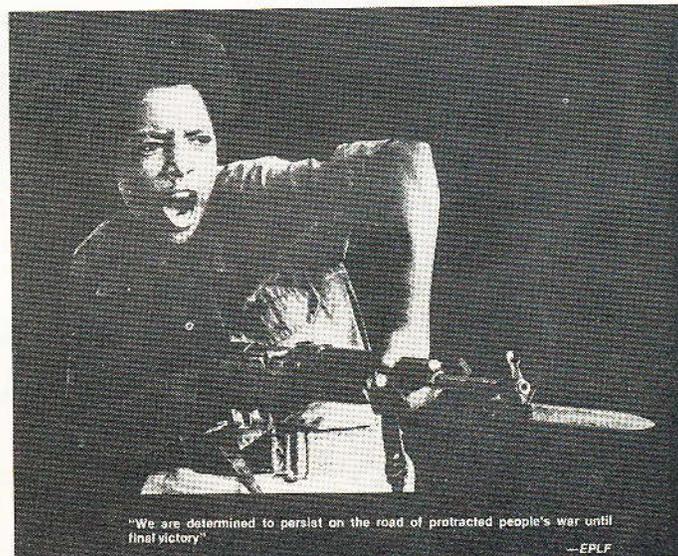
As the EPLA annihilates the fascist troops in Massawa, the junta's planes are dropping napalm bombs in the liberated cities and villages. On December 31, 1977 and January 1, 1978 the fascist junta napalmed liberated Keren and scores of villages especially those surrounding our country's capital Asmara.

The fascist junta's napalming of the liberated areas of our country is a cowardly act. It shows its desperation, its utter defeat and further exposes its fascist nature and its "socialist" demagogy.

No matter how many bombs it drops to intimidate our people and murder innocent children and women, the fascist junta will never be able to break the iron determination of our people to persist on the road of protracted people's war until final victory. The fascist junta's desperate attempt is futile. Our masses organized, armed and led by EPLF will courageously defend the gains they have won through heroic struggle from the savage attacks of the fascist junta.

We call on all progressive and democratic forces to condemn the fascist junta for its war of aggression in Eritrea and its cowardly acts—the barbaric napalming of our country's cities and villages.

ERITREA CALENDAR 1978



"We are determined to persist on the road of protracted people's war until final victory"

—EPLF

Order your copy now! from AESNA \$2.00

RADIO LIBERATION—ERITREA

The Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA) and the Association of Eritrean Women in North America (AEWNA) together have launched a fund-raising campaign towards the establishment of a radio station in the liberated areas of Eritrea.

In Eritrea, the war of national liberation led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) is surging forward. Ninety-five percent of the country, including major towns and cities have been liberated. The EPLF is scoring victory after victory—decimating the fascist Ethiopian occupation troops and encircling them in the few remaining cities.

These new victories are bringing forth new and greater tasks for the EPLF vanguard. In its self-reliant protracted struggle to transform and consolidate the vast liberated areas, the EPLF takes as its central task that of organizing, politicizing and arming the masses. Today, with the number of people in the liberated areas, in villages, towns and cities, in the millions, the EPLF is faced with the most urgent task of disseminating mass education on a large scale. To facilitate the acceleration of mass education, the EPLF considers it of prime importance to set up a radio station in the liberated areas.

Moreover, with the lightening advance of the EPLF, the Ethiopian occupationists, their imperialist masters, and other reactionary elements, are stepping up their slanderous campaign against the Eritrean people's just and revolutionary struggle and in particular against the EPLF revolutionary vanguard. Attempts to isolate the Eritrean struggle and the EPLF, through news blackout, lies, slanders and distortions by the imperialist press have to be combatted. One of the fundamental ways is to establish a radio station in the liberated areas of Eritrea from where the EPLF can present the true voice of the Eritrean people and expose the distortions by imperialist and reactionary news media.

It is in light of these central tasks of our revolution, that we have decided to launch a fund-raising campaign to assist in the establishment of a radio station. Towards the establishment of the radio station in the liberated areas of Eritrea, we have projected to raise **\$50,000** within a period of 9 months (December 1977-August 1978). Therefore we call upon all progressive, anti-imperialist and democratic organizations and individuals to support and assist us in any way they can (contributions, donations, etc.)

For more information and donations contact AESNA, P.O. Box 1247, New York, N.Y. 10027, (212)-222-5403.

