



# ERITREA IN STRUGGLE



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## JUNTA PREPARING FOR AN "ALL OUT OFFENSIVE" IN ERITREA

The Ethiopian fascist junta is preparing for yet another large scale "all out offensive" in Eritrea to drown the Eritrean people in blood, this time with the support of thousands of Cuban combat troops, several Soviet war ships and large quantities of sophisticated Soviet weapons. Recently as world public opinion focused on the war in the Ogaden the junta has been busy preparing for a dangerous large scale war operation in Eritrea. Towards this end the junta has flown thousands of troops and large quantities of Soviet weapons into our country's capital, Asmara. The commercial planes of the Ethiopian Airlines were involved in the transporting operation. For this purpose the junta cancelled all domestic and international flights of the airline.

More than 2,000 Cuban troops have also arrived in Asmara to actively take part in the junta's counter-revolutionary genocidal war against the Eritrean people. The junta's troops in Asmara are now demoralized and have lost the will to fight and are deserting to the EPLF en masse; the Cuban troops have taken charge of all military directives, operating the sophisticated Soviet weapons, the tanks, heavy artillery and Mig fighters and are participating in combat.

Moreover, several Soviet war ships are directly participating in the junta's "all out offensive" in Eritrea. At the moment four Soviet war ships have taken up positions near Massawa and are constantly shelling the port city. It has also been reported that about 25 Soviet war ships have entered our country's territorial water, the Eritrean Red Sea, in direct intervention to crush our people's revolutionary struggle.

The present preparations of the fascist junta with the help of Cuban troops, Soviet warships and sophisticated Soviet weapons to commit mass genocide of the Eritrean people glaringly shows the extent of the junta's barbaric and rabidly fascist designs in Eritrea. It shows the junta's frantic attempts to exterminate the Eritrean people and its extreme desperation in its war of aggression in Eritrea. It likewise exposes the role of the Soviet Union and Cuba in Eritrea, the extent of their intervention to extinguish the flames of the revolutionary armed national liberation struggle of the Eritrean people.

However, the aggressors' counter-revolutionary preparations will be shattered by our conscious fighting masses. Its several "all out offensives" miserably failed in the past; so will this one.

The naked aggression being committed by the Soviet war ships against our people will not save the junta from defeat in Eritrea,

neither will the intervention of Cuban troops nor the sophisticated Soviet weapons. Our fighting masses and the resolute EPLF will smash the aggression being committed by the Soviet Union and Cuba against our revolution and as they have done in the past they will continue destroying and capturing the heaps of Soviet weapons.

We assure the Cuban troops that they will only find death and humiliation in Eritrea. Indeed, it won't be long before we count thousands of dead and captured Cuban troops in Eritrea.

The Eritrean people have a deep hatred of their enemies and they are resolved to wage a sustained life and death struggle against them. They are prepared to pay whatever price for their freedom, independence and liberation. They are determined to smash all the counter-revolutionary machinations against their just and revolutionary struggle. The Eritrean people have long ago decided they want independence and liberation and to attain this they have chosen the road of revolutionary armed struggle. Their destiny is in their hands.

We call on all progressive and democratic forces to strongly condemn the fascist junta's "all out offensive" and war of genocide in Eritrea, the intervention of the Soviet Union and Cuba in Eritrea to extinguish the flames of the revolutionary struggle of the Eritrean people. □



Soviet supplied amphibious tanks captured by the heroic EPLA in the battle of Mai Atal on December 8, 1977.

# HAIL INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY!

## (Statement of the Association of Eritrean Women in North America)

International Working Women's Day, March 8, represents the unity of women throughout the world in the struggles for complete emancipation. On March 8, working and oppressed women around the world celebrate the victories won in the cause for women's emancipation. The heroic role of women fighters and revolutionaries is commemorated, and the rich experience of past struggles summed up to further advance the revolutionary movement. International Working Women's Day is an important occasion for the further mobilization of women as an indispensable revolutionary force of the anti-imperialist proletarian socialist revolution.

March 8, International Working Women's Day, will be celebrated by Eritrean women all over the liberated areas in Eritrea, in their enemy occupied cities, and abroad. Eritrean women, like their counterparts in the rest of the world, are militantly rising up, holding high the banner of national liberation and people's democracy. Under the leadership of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, vanguard of the Eritrean revolution, Eritrean women are actively participating in the struggle against imperialism, zionism, Ethiopian colonialism and internal reaction.

Women in semi-feudal and colonial Eritrea are the most oppressed section of society. For many centuries, Eritrean women have suffered under the yoke of feudalism, colonialism, bureaucrat capitalism and have been the most downtrodden under the patriarchal oppression. Deprived of ownership of any means of production, generally excluded from social production, viciously exploited when able to work, and burdened by the drudgery of private domestic slavery, the life of Eritrean women has been one of utter misery. Under the fascist occupation of Ethiopian expansionists, women in Eritrea have suffered even worse atrocities.

Despite the fetters of feudal patriarchal oppression, Eritrean women have always had a glorious tradition of resistance. In all the major events in the history of the Eritrean people, women have played an important role. From the Turkish invasion in the 15th Century, through Italian colonialism (1885-1941) and British occupation (1941-1952) up to the present day Ethiopian colonial occupation, Eritrean women were an inseparable part of the people's struggle for national independence and democracy. Peasant women in Western Eritrea waged a relentless struggle alongside their menfolk against the feudal landlords in the early 1940's. Women workers were a considerable force in the worker's strikes that paralyzed Eritrean cities in the 1950's. The student movement which arose in the late 50's brought forth many women activists who bravely fought the fascist Ethiopian police and faced imprisonment along with the other students rather than succumb to the will of the occupationists.

The launching of the armed struggle in 1961 sparked the overwhelming support of the oppressed masses and in particular Eritrean women. From the early years of the armed struggle, peasant women played an important role. Deeply moved by the patriotism of the fighters, peasant women actively prepared food and other supplies to support the liberation fighters. Defying fascist reprisals of the Ethiopian occupation troops, peasant women provided shelter and information on enemy movement to the fighters. Working women in the cities raised funds, at times 10% of their meagre wages to support the liberation fighters. Although few in number, women workers, peasants and students even joined the armed struggle.

Despite the ardent patriotism of women, they were barred from fully participating in the national liberation struggle by the feudo-

patriarchal oppressive social conditions and the reactionary leadership that dominated the Eritrean Liberation Front. The ELF, dominated by feudal and right-wing petty bourgeois elements, was incapable of mobilizing and politically organizing women.

The formation of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in 1970 opened a new stage in the history of Eritrean women. The EPLF, which from the outset charted a correct political line for the national liberation movement, opened the revolutionary path for working and oppressed women in Eritrea. The First Congress of EPLF, the outcome and consolidation of many years of struggle, was a historic occasion for Eritrean masses, and in particular Eritrean women. The Historic 1st Congress of EPLF adopted the National Democratic Program, crystallizing the basic aspirations of the oppressed masses. The National Democratic Program clearly stated women's emancipation as a key goal of the revolution in a broad program "to free women from domestic confinement, develop their participation in social production, to assure women's full rights of equality with men in political, economic and social life" and called for building an "association through which women can participate in the struggle against colonial aggression and for social transformation." Guided by the revolutionary line of the EPLF, Eritrean women are smashing the fetters of feudal patriarchal oppression and taking an active role in the revolution.



**Women members of EPLF's People's Militia: arms in hand to defend the revolution.**

At present thousands of worker, peasant and student women are actively engaged in the armed struggle. Women fighters constitute more than 13% of the people's army. Women fighters in the EPLF have displayed outstanding revolutionary zeal and heroism in the battlefield as well as in other activities of the Front. Without the active participation of women in all aspects of the revolution the national liberation struggle cannot be victorious, and without the victory of the revolutionary movement women's liberation would not be possible. Participation in social production is the only means to free women from feudal patriarchal oppression and enable them to achieve equality with men in economic, political and social life. Guided by this principle, Eritrean women are struggling to raise their political con-

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consciousness and technical knowledge to increase their participation in social production. In the liberated areas, women fighters are engaging in agricultural production. Working side by side with their men comrades, women are contributing their share to the EPLF's self-reliant programs in cultivating grain farms, fruit plantations, livestock breeding, salt extraction, etc. Women are also playing an increasingly important role in the small cottage industries set up by the EPLF.

To mobilize and politicize the broad masses of women, EPLF has waged protracted struggle against backward and feudal ideas that fetter women's development. Under EPLF's leadership, Eritrean women have set up their own mass organization—the Association of Eritrean Women (AEW). AEW, rapidly blossoming throughout Eritrea, has become the rallying point for tens of thousands of worker, peasant, and urban petty bourgeois women from all the nationalities in Eritrea. The mass rally held in Keren on November 1, 1977, to commemorate the formation of AEW-Keren branch, was a significant event in the history of the women's movement in Eritrea. Over 6,000 Eritrean women workers, students and housewives militantly participated in the mass rally and demonstrated in the streets hailing the formation of their organization. This was a clear indication of the vigorous development of the women's movement to smash all obstacles in their way, contributing to the advancement of the revolutionary movement led by the EPLF.

AEW branches have been established not only in Eritrea but also abroad. The Association of Eritrean Women in Beirut, Association of Eritrean Women in Kuwait, AEW in Sudan, AEW in North America and the study circles throughout Europe, are part of the ever-growing mass organization of Eritrean women.

The AEW has been active in fighting illiteracy among women, raising their political consciousness and enabling them to assert their economic and political rights in society. Actively participating in the land reform struggle led by EPLF peasant women have gained their equal rights in ownership of land. Enjoying full democratic rights in the liberated areas, Eritrean women are actively participating in the people's assemblies. In the schools set up by the EPLF, women are attending on an equal footing with men. The EPLF has given utmost importance to training women cadres as leaders and organizers in the mass organizations and other work. Many women from all the nationalities have been trained in EPLF's cadre school with AEW as the main source of women activists.

Women are increasingly playing an active role in the other mass organizations such as the Association of Eritrean Workers and Association of Eritrean Youth.

The AEW has also been very instrumental in mobilizing women to take an active role in increasing agricultural production and engaging in combat support work. In some villages, AEW branches have set up cooperative chicken farms to supply the people's markets. Work teams of hundreds of women from several villages are actively organizing support for frontline combat units of EPLF by preparing and supplying food and water and caring for the wounded fighters. Others are engaging in volunteer work at EPLF hospitals where they also receive basic medical training to utilize when they return to their villages. From the conscious members, mainly workers and peasant women, in AEW, many have joined the people's militia. As members of the people's militia, women are militantly defending the liberated areas, participating in production and assisting the EPLF's people's army. Raising high the slogan, "EQUALITY THROUGH EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN REVOLUTION AND SOCIAL PRODUCTION," Eritrean women are vigorously struggling for the complete victory of the national liberation struggle.

This year, Eritrean women will be celebrating International Working Women's Day at a time when their people's struggle for national independence and democracy is on the verge of total victory, at a time when the entire Eritrean people, led by the EPLF, are smashing the Ethiopian colonial aggression and the machinations of various counter-revolutionary forces. International Working Women's Day will be celebrated by Eritrean women at home and abroad with a renewed determination to persevere in self-reliant protracted people's war led by EPLF, with a conviction to strengthen their ties with the anti-imperialist and revolutionary women around the world for the cause of women's emancipation, national liberation and socialism.

We hail the thousands of heroic Eritrean women martyrs who selflessly sacrificed their lives for the cause of national liberation and women's emancipation.

On the occasion of International Working Women's Day, the Association of Eritrean Women in North America, reflecting the sentiments of the entire AEW and EPLF, expresses its warm solidarity with and hails the heroic women in Asian, Africa and Latin America fighting against imperialism, colonialism, zionism and racism, the working women in the capitalist countries who together with the entire working class are intensifying their struggle against monopoly capitalism and for socialism. We hail the exemplary role of working women in the socialist countries in the struggle to build and consolidate socialism, a source of great inspiration and support for all working and oppressed women throughout the world.

The Association of Eritrean Women in North America reaffirms its resolve to strengthen its ties with anti-imperialist working and oppressed women in North America to advance the common struggles of our peoples.

**LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY!  
WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES  
OF THE WORLD, UNITE!**



A partial view of the great women's demonstration held in Keren on November 1, 1977.

# AN ASPECT OF ERITREAN WOMEN'S ARDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE

The Eritrean field today vividly witnesses Eritrean women's full participation in the national liberation struggle. Eritrean women's vigorous participation is manifested in every aspect of the struggle. On the battle fronts women fighters are displaying magnificent heroism in fierce battles against the Ethiopian aggressor troops. In the vast liberated areas women are actively involved in the reconstruction, organizing and production tasks. Peasant and urban working women are enthusiastically supporting the front lines by providing food, water, caring for the wounded and cooking for the fighters and many a time they play a supportive role in heated battles as members of the peoples militia. As an illustration we reprint below an interview conducted by **Vanguard**, EPLF's official monthly organ, Vol. II, No. 7 with some of the thousands of women who selflessly participated by supporting the EPLA's frontline fighters during the fierce battles against the Ethiopian aggressor troops on the Asmara-Dekemhare road in the months of August and September 1977. (Translation from the original Tigrinya is ours.)

*"On our way to the heated battle front we met a large number of girls who were returning to their homes accompanied by our comrades. Stepping out of the car we were travelling in, we made the following quick interview with them.*

**Vanguard:** *Where is this long line of women from?*

**One of the girls:** Having fulfilled our duties by preparing food for and cooperating to the best of our capabilities with our comrades, the fighters of the EPLF, for eleven days we are returning home from the battle front. During these past eleven days we prepared food and transported bullets and other necessary items to the fighters while they fully concentrated on their attack on the enemy. We are all from Dekemhare and its surrounding.

**Vanguard:** *Are the tasks you have been accomplishing done in an organized or in a spontaneous manner?*

**One of the girls:** Although the decisive factors are our feelings and convictions our activities are done in an organized way. In this campaign we, the unarmed women in the cities and the countryside, fulfill our national duties through our respective organizations. We work in the battle zones in turns for the duration of time mentioned earlier.

**Vanguard:** *From what we see it is only women who are participating in this task. Why is this so?*

**One of the girls:** It is true that in the ongoing national liberation struggle most of the armed fighters are men. This, however, doesn't mean that there are no armed women fighters, but compared to that of armed men their number is not proportional. Therefore, while those of us unarmed women in the cities and the countryside fulfill our national duties in this front by coordinating our tasks in production and domestic activities, those men who like us are not yet armed also are strength-

ening this front by performing their duties in different fields in different ways.

**Vanguard:** *How did you manage to accomplish your tasks while battles raged?*

**One of the girls:** It is true as we have witnessed there is not even a day's calm on the frontline. The enemy continually fires at our trenches with various mortars, rockets and howitzers. Just like our fighters who defying his bombs and rockets annihilate the enemy, we fulfill our duties as required. There are no problems we encounter in fulfilling our responsibilities. On the contrary, we feel tremendous joy and content at the high level of morale and fighting spirit of our fighters that we see when we take the food that we prepare to their trenches.



Eritrean women have won their right to full participation in production. Picture shows women participating in cooperative crop field clearing campaign in Keren.

**Vanguard:** *For how long do you think your task will continue?*

**One of the girls:** This task will continue as long as the battles go on. Even if the enemy is defeated on this front, the activities that the masses are carrying out will not be discontinued until the enemy is totally defeated on all fronts and battle fields and is driven out of Eritrea.

**Vanguard:** *When do you think we shall finally triumph over the enemy?*

**One of the girls:** I can't specify our final victory to be today or tomorrow but there is one truth that I and the entire Eritrean people know. That is, since we have high fighting spirit and are unreluctantly

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prepared to struggle and since we are struggling, it is certain that we will achieve our final victory...this may well be in the near future.

*After conducting this interview which was made with self-confidence and revolutionary spirit we continued our journey towards one of the villages on the frontline. When we reached the*

*village we met with a comrade who was leading a meeting of over 300 women under moonlight. We learned from the comrade that the assembled women were to substitute for those whom we met on their way back to their villages. In order for the women, who were from different villages and towns, to know one another well, the comrade organized them into various working groups and assigned them to different locations." □*

## HAIL THE FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ERITREAN WOMEN IN LEBANON

The Association of Eritrean Women in Lebanon (AEWL) held its first congress in Beirut, Lebanon from January 7 to January 8, 1978. Members of the study groups of patriotic Eritrean women that were established over the past six years vigorously participated in the founding congress of the AEWL. EPLF's Central Committee members were also present and brought EPLF's special message to the congress with them. The sisterly mass organizations of Eritrean workers, women and students in the Middle East, Europe and North American sent delegates and messages hailing the formation of the AEWL and its first congress. Several progressive organizations also sent delegates and messages in solidarity with the Eritrean revolution, its vanguard the EPLF and the AEWL.

The AEWL congress thoroughly studied the political working solidarity with and hails the heroic women in Asia, Africa and Democratic Revolution" and broadly discussed the situation in the Eritrean struggle and the Horn of Africa. The congress was a successful one. It came out with correct resolutions and elected a leadership composed of tested comrades.

AEWL's congress hailed the EPLF as the vanguard of the Eritrean revolution, unanimously accepted the EPLF's National Democratic Program adopted by the historic First Congress of EPLF and praised the EPLA for the brilliant victories it is scoring over the Ethiopian aggressor troops.

On the question of the national unity of the Eritrean people the congress affirmed that genuine national unity can be attained only through the formation of the national united front and called for the continuation of the dialogue between EPLF and ELF. In regards to the situation in the ELF the congress condemned the ELF leaders' anti-national unity activities as well as their vilification campaign against the EPLF and supported the democratic struggle of the rank and file fighters of the ELF. The congress strongly condemned the opportunist, counter-revolutionary Osman Sabbe and his clique and their activities to impede national unity.

The AEWL congress resolved to condemn in the strongest terms the Ethiopian fascist junta for its genocidal war in Eritrea and its terroristic suppression of the Ethiopian masses. It also condemned the Soviet Union's and Cuba's intervention in support of the fascist junta and to crush the just and revolutionary struggle of the Eritrean people and to suppress the struggle of the Ethiopian masses.

The AEWL congress resolved to resolutely support the national liberation struggles throughout the world. In particular it expressed its strong support for the heroic Palestinian people's struggle to regain their homeland and recognized the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. At the same time it condemned all the imperialist counter-revolutionary attempts to crush and bring the Palestinian struggle to its knees.

The formation of the AEWL and its first congress are a big political achievement in the struggle of patriotic Eritrean women in Lebanon to form a truly democratic mass organization, strengthen their ties with the Eritrean mass organizations at home and abroad and actively participate in the armed national liberation struggle of the Eritrean people under the correct leadership of the EPLF.

AEWL's formation is the fruit of many years of struggle waged by patriotic Eritrean women in Lebanon against the reactionary line and practices of both the Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders. As early as 1972 patriotic Eritrean women in Beirut formed their own study groups in defiance of the Sabbe clique's threats and sided with the EPLF. They condemned the counter-revolutionary civil war launched by the ELF leaders to liquidate the EPLF, and firmly stood against the divisive activities and reactionary propaganda of the Sabbe clique. The Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders with all their threats and bullying had done everything possible to isolate the Eritrean women in Lebanon from their revolution and the correct leadership of the EPLF. By imposing their sectarian and backward line, the Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders tried to create divisions within the ranks of the women.

But the patriotic women resisted the Sabbe clique's and the ELF leaders' sectarian practices and maintained their unity. They waged stern struggle combatting and exposing the reactionary demobilizing efforts of the Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders. By forging close ties with the then Eritreans for Liberation in Europe and in North America and by adhering to the political leadership of the EPLF they were able to break the wall of isolation that the Sabbe clique and the ELF leaders tried to build.

Eritrean women in Lebanon have consistently supported their revolution. Even during the recent difficult war condition that gripped Lebanon the patriotic Eritrean women continued their organizational work and kept close touch with their revolution.

Today Eritrean women in Lebanon have EPLF's full assistance. Filled with jubilation by the spectacular victories being scored in the Eritrean field and inspired by EPLF's wise leadership, Eritrean women in Lebanon are today actively participating in their people's revolution.

The formation of AEWL is yet another big victory for the struggle of Eritrean women, their organized and conscious participation in the revolution, and strengthens the unity of the revolutionary and patriotic forces at home and abroad under the leadership of the EPLF.

**Hail the formation of AEWL!  
Hail the first congress of the AEWL!  
Victory to the masses!  
Long live EPLF!**

## ZIMBABWEAN MASSES REJECT SELLOUT DEAL

The racist Ian Smith and the three Zimbabwean collaborators, Abel Muzorewa, Ndabaningi Sithole and Jeremiah Chisau, have announced from Salisbury that they have reached an accord, "a final settlement," for "transition to black majority rule."

This came as no surprise to the Zimbabwean people who, well before the sell out was finalized, vigorously condemned the so-called settlement talks as not representing their interest at all. The Zimbabwean people could attain a solution compatible with their aspiration only by persisting on the road of armed struggle. The Anglo-American imperialists and the Smith regime who master-minded this fake "settlement" fully know that the way the armed struggle is advancing the fascist regime of Ian Smith would not last long. They had to find a way to isolate, better even to force the liberation fighters to drop their guns, by claiming that a settle-

ment has already been reached. The Anglo-American imperialists in their desperation have gone as far as evading the nature of the struggle in Zimbabwe which they claim has changed after the so-called settlement. They are saying that the continuation of the armed struggle is in contradiction with the interests of the Zimbabwean masses.

The neo-colonialist rubbish of the imperialists aside, what in fact has happened is that a handful of traitors joined the Smith regime to intensify the oppression of the Zimbabwean masses. But this neo-colonialist conspiracy will come to nothing. The liberation fighters of Zimbabwe, confident of their victory, will persist on in their armed struggle. The Zimbabwean masses are the only ones to decide their own destiny.

## JUNTA-ISRAELI TIES EXPOSED

The Ethiopian fascist junta had for a long time denied the intimate relationship it has with Zionist Israel. Until recently it has categorically denied the receiving of arms from Israel and the training of its troops by Zionist experts.

But when Moshe Dayan, the foreign minister of the Zionist state, revealed the "secret" in a press conference in Zurich on February 6 the fascist junta though complaining about Dayan's "exaggeration" was quick to admit that it indeed has been receiving arms from the fascist Zionist state.

Thus it was forced to admit the fact for which it was already exposed. There was no way the junta could hide its dealings with Israel anymore. At the same time, pretending to be "anti-Zionist" the junta has "expelled" some of the Zionist experts that have been training its troops.

Dayan's revelation and the junta's consequent "counter-moves" don't mean however that the two fascist states relationship has been impaired. The actions taken by both sides are hypo-

critical. The heart of the matter is that the two reactionary states are colonialist sponsors of counter-revolution in the area—arch enemies of the national liberation struggles in Palestine, Eritrea and other countries.

The two states see their relationship as a strategic necessity. Their alliance and cooperation in controlling the strategic Red Sea and suppressing the heroic struggle of the Eritrean people in the interest of their imperialist masters is key for preserving their continued existence in the face of the onslaught of the masses.

The intimate relationship between the two reactionary states is of long standing. As Dayan said, they have had cooperation "for years and years." They both see the continuation of their intimate relationship as an absolute necessity. Dayan said it all: "We want to retain the good relationship with Ethiopia."

Woe to those various forces who have been and are praising the "socialist" junta to the skies for "severing" its relations with the Zionist state!!

## SABBE: AGENT OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

The counter-revolutionary Sabbe clique in its bid to sell Eritrea to U.S. imperialism is once again openly calling on U.S. President Carter to intervene on behalf of the Eritrean people and is asking him to supply it with arms.

On February 27, 1978 Osman Saleh Sabbe, the head of the clique, in a special message "urged Carter to interfere and seek solution to the Eritrean question" and "use the moral and legal responsibilities of the United States." On February 1, 1978 the traitor Sabbe urging his U.S. imperialist masters also stated "We have expected the Western countries, first and foremost the United States to supply us with arms."

The open call of the Sabbe clique on U.S. imperialism is not an isolated incident but a forerunner of an orchestrated U.S. neo-colonialist scheme in Eritrea. In making these statements the Sabbe clique has plainly exposed itself as the true and loyal agent of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. imperialists have promoted the Sabbe

clique as their agent in their neo-colonialist designs for the Eritrean question in order to guarantee their interests in Eritrea.

Since its expulsion from the EPLF in March 1976 the Sabbe clique has been openly and shamelessly carrying out counter-revolutionary activities to sabotage the Eritrean revolution. But the clique is isolated. The Eritrean people have roundly exposed it and have a deep hatred towards it.

The unholy alliance between the Sabbe clique and the U.S. imperialists and their neo-colonialist designs in Eritrea is destined to fail. It is not the U.S. imperialists or any other counter-revolutionary force who will solve the Eritrean question. Only the Eritrean people led by the EPLF will resolve their own problem. The intervention of various counter-revolutionaries will only make the Eritrean people even more determined to carry on their revolutionary armed struggle until final victory.

## NEWS FROM THE LIBERATED AREAS IN BRIEF

### EPLF'S PEOPLES MILITIA ASSISTS MASSES

The Adi Keih area is one of the frontlines on the southern front where heroic EPLA fighters and the EPLF's people's militia are engaged in exemplary production tasks. The people's militia is assisting the masses in organizational and production work. The people's militia members integrating themselves with the peasants—in particular with the poor peasants—are fulfilling impressive production related tasks. They are assisting in mowing crops, threshing and storing of grain.

The people's militia has developed an intimate relationship with the masses, a relationship forged through struggling together and the masses have acquired important practical lessons preparing themselves for a protracted struggle.



The Eritrean masses are increasing crop production to reach self-sufficiency. Picture shows youth in cooperative crop harvesting on the southern front.

### EPLA ROUTS AGGRESSOR TROOPS

On February 22, 1978 an estimated 10,000 Ethiopian aggressor troops escorted by Mig fighter planes, tanks and heavy artillery set out from Asmara to attack the southern liberated area. At Sela Daaro, 12 miles south of Asmara on the Asmara-Mendefera road, the occupation troops were met with the EPLA's stiff resistance. The EPLA fighters inflicted heavy losses on them and among other things three Soviet supplied tanks were destroyed. Overwhelmed, the aggressor troops were finally forced to retreat.

### EPLF DISTRIBUTES GRAIN TO MASSES

In the Zula area the EPLF has taken decisive steps in alleviating the problems of the masses especially concerning grain. Even though the Zula area is an extensive and well watered agricultural area, it has been left standing idle due to the lack of seeds. As a result the cattle, goat and sheep herders who live in the area have had a severe shortage of grain and suffered from starvation. The shortage of grain was so severe that there was not a speck of maize that could be bought even at exorbitant prices. Responding to the needs of the masses the EPLF distributed 200 quintals of maize from the allotment of the EPLA at minimum prices.

Also around Bada, a similar shortage of seeds and a problem of

starvation existed. The shortage of grain was not only acute but the little that was available was selling at skyrocketing prices—\$48 per quintal. Realizing that the problem would get even worse in the future, the EPLF decided to distribute 370 quintals of sorghum from the allotment of the EPLA to the people, in particular the poorest ones at \$22 a quintal.

Thus the EPLF with the limited resources it has expended a great deal of effort to resolve the problems confronting the masses. These correct steps by EPLF will further solidify the warm relationship between the EPLF and the masses and generate even more enthusiasm and determination of the masses to carry the revolution forward.

### YOUTH OF KEREN RAISE MONEY FOR WAR FRONT

The youth of Keren are waging a fund-raising campaign to support the frontlines. Besides engaging themselves in production and mobilizational work they have recently begun raising money for the war front through presenting revolutionary and patriotic plays and songs to the masses in the different zones of the city and in other liberated towns and villages. Not only is the campaign succeeding in raising the necessary funds but it has also aroused tremendous patriotic and revolutionary fervor among the masses.



Eritrean youth are imbued with tremendous revolutionary spirit. Picture shows youth in Dekemhare simulating their older comrades, the EPLA fighters, parading in the streets of their city with their wooden guns.

### “IN DEFENSE OF THE ERITREAN REVOLUTION”

AESNA and AEWNA have recently published a 250 page pamphlet entitled “In Defense of the Eritrean Revolution.” The main themes of the pamphlet are:

1. to put in perspective the true nature of the Eritrean question and the true character of the Eritrean revolution, and
2. to refute the various slanderous charges levelled at the EPLF led Eritrean revolution by its enemies.

GET YOUR COPY NOW FROM AESNA

SEND \$2.00 and POSTAGE

# INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

Each year March 8, International Working Women's Day, is commemorated by the revolutionary forces and oppressed peoples throughout the world in solidarity with the struggle of working and oppressed women. It is a day of summing up the revolutionary experience of working women to further intensify their struggle for liberation, socialism and their emancipation from double oppression.

March 8 is an important event in the world wide struggle against imperialism and for proletarian socialist revolution. Thus, it symbolizes the revolutionary axiom that without the active participation of working women no revolution can be victorious.

The struggle of working women for their complete emancipation is a component part of the general anti-imperialist struggle and proletarian socialist revolution. Women's complete equality with men cannot be attained without destroying imperialism and building socialism.

The important role of working women in revolution has been amply demonstrated in the mighty revolutions of our time. Heroic working and oppressed women played significant role in the Great Russian October Revolution, the Great Chinese revolution and the victorious revolutions in Albania, Kampuchea, Vietnam and many more.

Today, working women are actively participating along with their men compatriots in the struggle against imperialism and for socialism. Working women have taken up the task of making revolution. They are actively taking part in the national liberation struggle in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in the working class movement in the capitalist countries and in the building and consolidation of socialism in the socialist countries.

In Eritrea, led by the EPLF, Eritrean women have won their rightful position in the revolution and are actively taking part in

the struggle for national independence and democracy. Eritrean women's participation in the revolution is markedly evidenced in all aspects of the struggle. Eritrean women have today formed their own strong mass organization, the Association of Eritrean Women, whose branches are mushrooming at home and abroad.

International Working Women's Day 1978, has come at a time when the Eritrean revolution is at its historic juncture, at a time when the total defeat of the Ethiopian aggressors and the complete victory of the Eritrean people's struggle is within sight.

In celebrating March 8, 1978 the fighting Eritrean masses in general and Eritrean women in particular will intensify the struggle to consolidate the great victories, to realize the complete liberation of the fatherland and build the emerging new democratic Eritrea.

On the occasion of International Women's Day 1978, AESNA expresses its resolute solidarity with all struggling women all over the world, those in Africa, Asia and Latin America carrying the banner of national liberation, those in the capitalist countries waging resolute struggle against monopoly capital and those in the socialist countries building socialism.

We highly honor the fine daughters of Eritrea who heroically sacrificed their lives for our people's noble cause of national independence and liberation and hail those who are continuing holding high the banner of national liberation.

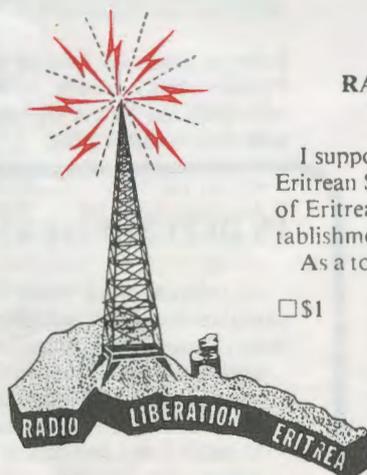
**HAIL INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY!  
LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE  
OF WORKING & OPPRESSED WOMEN!!**

## SUPPORT

# RADIO LIBERATION — ERITREA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### RADIO LIBERATION—ERITREA

I support the fundraising campaign launched by the Association Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA) and the Association of Eritrean Women in North America (AEWNA) towards the establishment of a radio station in the liberated areas of Eritrea.

As a token of my support, please find enclosed:

\$1     \$2     \$3     \$4     \$5     \$\_\_\_\_\_

AESNA, P.O. Box 1247, New York, N.Y. 10027.