

From "Eritrea in Struggle"

More on Guardian's Opportunism

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The Workers' Advocate has just received the new issue of Eritrea in Struggle, Newsletter of Eritreans For Liberation in North America. This excellent issue (Vol. 3, No. 3, February-April 1979) includes articles on:

- International Women's Day
- Anti-Eritrean Propaganda of the Soviet Revisionists
- Behind the Visit of Hungarian General to Ethiopia
- The Present Situation in Eritrea in Brief
- Soviet Genocide in Eritrea, Zionist 'Heirs'
- Ethiopia: Five Years of Fascist Dictatorship
- Israeli-Egyptian Agreement: A Stab in the Back to the Palestinian and Arab Peoples
- In Solidarity with the Turkish People's Struggle
- International Solidarity with the Eritrean Revolution
- More on Guardian's Opportunism

Below we reprint excerpts of one of the articles in this issue.

It is to be recalled that in our September-November 1978 (Vol. III, No. 1) issue of Eritrea in Struggle we exposed the Guardian for its opportunist stand on Eritrea. [See The Workers' Advocate, Vol. 8, No. 10, Nov. 22, 1978]. In the article we wrote then ("Guardian's Opportunism Exposed"), we had said that the Guardian is "a defender and apologist of the Soviet and Cuban aggression against the Eritrean people." It was clarified point by point why this was so. In fact that this is so has been even more clearly proven by its practice since then.

The Guardian hypocritically says it supports Eritrean independence, but in practice it has become the mouthpiece of the anti- Eritrean propaganda of the Soviet and Ethiopian aggressors and an open collaborator of the "leaders" of the Eritrean revolution. It is also engaged in the dirty work of fomenting splitism among Eritreans by slandering and defaming revolutionary and patriotic Eritreans and in particular our organization EFLNA.

The Guardian claims that it supports the Eritrean people's struggle for national independence and democracy. But is there really any truth in this claim? There is none at all. If the Guardian was modest at all, would it serve as the forum of the anti-Eritrean propaganda being launched by the enemies of the Eritrean people? The case in point is the series of eleven articles, written by... Wilfred Burchett, it printed recently (See Guardian November 15, 22, 29, 1978; December 6, 13, 20, 27, 1978; and January 3, 10, 17, 24, 1979). Of course in order to "dissociate" itself from the views of the said author, the Guardian stated at the beginning of each of the articles, "the author's views do not coincide with those of the Guardian -- particularly on the 'socialist' nature of the ruling group in-Ethiopia and on the question of Eritrea. But we are publishing the dispatches in the interest of further discussion." However, this is sheer demagogy and opportunism of the highest degree. The Guardian has a definite stand on the fascist Dergue in power in Ethiopia. It sees it as a government that has brought about revolutionary changes (See Guardian March 8, 15, 22, 1978).

And now to come to the counter-revolutionary articles written by Wilfred Burchett. Acting on behalf of the Soviet revisionists this counter-revolutionary individual echoes Soviet and the Ethiopian Dergue's propaganda. Any one who has been closely following the situation in the Horn of Africa can clearly see that the views this individual is spreading are the exact replica of what the Soviet revisionists and the Ethiopian fascists have been and are saying. With the sole aim of deliberately distorting Eritrean history and discrediting the just struggle of the Eritrean people for national independence and for justifying the fascist Ethio-Soviet aggression against the Eritrean people, this counter-revolutionary person totally bases his so-called facts and arguments on those of the Ethiopian colonialists and even the British imperialists. Not only does this individual argue

against the Eritrean struggle but also condemns the heroic Ethiopian people and their struggle by glorifying the fascist Dergue as socialist and its fascist repressions on the people as revolutionary actions. Since his allegations are not a bit different from those of the Soviet revisionists, which we have exposed in this issue of Eritrea in Struggle under the heading "expose the anti-Eritrean propaganda of the Soviet revisionists," we will not dwell on them here. However, we would like to say in passing that this is not the first instance for this notorious Soviet agent to engage in such anti-people activity. There are numerous instances in which he has worked as a propagandist of the Soviet revisionists against people's struggles.

This is not all. The Guardian has also become the chief forum for promoting the EPLF leaders' erroneous line, in the U.S. The stream of articles that run through the Guardian's lines every week portray the EPLF's capitulationist line as revolutionary foresightedness. The writer, Don Connell, who claims to be an eyewitness, never deals with the main issues in Eritrea today. He simply glosses them over and beautifies the EPLF leaders. This individual has become the chief spokesman of the EPLF leaders in the U.S. and is carrying out this task in collaboration with the opportunists who have left our organization. The point is, however, in the recent programs in which he appeared as the speaker, he totally failed to answer the burning questions in Eritrea. On the other hand in a hopeless attempt to defend the EPLF leaders he in fact exposed their capitulation by repeating their statement that "to determine whether the Soviet Union is an enemy or friend of the Eritrean revolution is not on the agenda in Eritrea today. " Here, we would like to point out in passing that the EPLF leadership still holds that the Soviet Union is the strategic ally of the Eritrean revolution and imposes through both demagogy and brute force its defeatist line that the actions of the Soviet Union in Eritrea only and not the Soviet Union itself should be condemned.

Furthermore one of the chief tasks assigned to this individual by the EPLF leaders seems to be waging a propaganda of defamation against our organization. Using the same terminology -- "ultra-leftists"-- which the EPLF leaders are fond of characterizing the revolutionary resolutions of our 9th congress, he has on numerous occasions both in public meetings and in writing slandered our organization (See Guardian,

January 31, 1979). We point out here therefore, that this individual, by eulogizing the reactionary leadership of the EPLF which is engaged in suppressing; Eritrean revolutionaries as "ultra-leftists", is objectively engaged in an anti-Eritrean activity for which he should be exposed.

In his anti-EFLNA activities, the so-called eyewitness reporter has the full backing of the Guardian. The Guardian has recently stepped up its anti-EFLNA propaganda. An article entitled "Eritrean Meet Disrupted", which appeared in the February 28, 1979 issue of the Guardian, for instance accuses EFLNA members and comrades from the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists of attempting to disrupt a public forum organized by the so-called Association of Democratic Eritreans in Boston on February 17, 1979. But this is a fabrication. The truth, which even the Guardian could not deny in the above mentioned article, is that our members and the comrades from the COUSML who went to attend the public meeting were not only denied entry but were also unjustly beaten. Entry denials has been the case in all the public forums in which Don Connell has been speaking (New York, Washington D. C., etc.). Our members never attempted to disrupt these meetings. The question is then why have they been barred from attending these public meetings? The answer is very clear. It shows the opportunists' (the EPLF leaders and their supporters here) fear of being exposed. Wasn't this also the case at the programs that were organized for the EPLF leaders some time ago (See Eritrea in Struggle, Vol. III, No. 2)

These are then the facts that glaringly prove that the Guardian is not supporting Eritrean independence but instead is trying to weaken it. Notwithstanding such obstacles created by opportunists such as the Guardian, EFLNA will firmly persist on the correct road of struggle it has embarked upon. In defense of our people's just cause for national independence, EFLNA together with all genuine revolutionary and patriotic Eritreans who are increasingly coming out openly against the defeatist "leaders" of the Eritrean revolution, is determined to wage an uncompromising struggle against the enemies of our revolution and against all those opportunists who have joined hands to weaken it.