

EPLF Will Smash All Counter- Revolutionary Machinations Against the Eritrean Revolution

Workers; Advocate, Vol. 8, No. 4, April 28, 1978

The following article is reprinted from Eritrea In Struggle, newsletter of the Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA). It appeared in Vol. II, No. 7, April 1978 issue.

An assessment of the present developments in Eritrea vividly reveals that as the Eritrean revolution led by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front continues to win great victories and irresistibly marches forward, its enemies are on the other hand tremendously stepping up their counter-revolutionary activities to check its advance and crush it. Various forces are at work intensifying their machinations to liquidate the Eritrean people's revolutionary armed national liberation struggle either through brute force or through subversion.

The Ethiopian fascist junta, desperately trying to hold on to its colonial grip of Eritrea, is making full preparations to launch "an all out offensive" against the Eritrean struggle. Armed to the teeth by both the Soviet Union and the U.S. and with the support of thousands of Cuban troops and Soviet and Zionist advisors, the fascist junta is undertaking an insane genocidal campaign to drown the Eritrean people in blood. The junta's Soviet and Cuban supported large scale war of genocide is already underway. For three months now the junta's air force has been carrying out massive daily raids of the liberated areas. Its Mig and F-5 fighter planes have already dropped large quantities of napalm and cluster bombs in population centers -- in particular, the cities such as Massawa, Keren, Dekemhare, Tessenei, Argordat and Nacfa. The besieged Ethiopian aggressor troops in Asmara reinforced by over. 3,500 Cuban combat troops are making periodic attempts to break the EPLA's encirclement of the city and to carry out wholesale massacres of the civilian population around Asmara. In the port city of Massawa, the savage shelling by Soviet warships has destroyed most of the

city's factories, public institutions and residential houses causing thousands of people to seek refuge with the EPLF in the rear bases.

The Soviet Union and Cuba, bent on extinguishing the flames of the Eritrean revolution, have escalated their direct military intervention to an unprecedented scale. The number of Cuban combat troops fighting on the side of the Ethiopian occupation forces, has increased to over 3,500. Piles of sophisticated Soviet weapons -- BM 21 Katyusha rocket launchers. T-54 and T-64 tanks and heavy artillery, etc., -- are being flown into Asmara daily by Soviet Antonov planes. The Soviet Union has also escalated its vicious propaganda attack on the Eritrean struggle. The Soviet Union is slandering the Eritrean struggle in the most monstrous manner. In a Pravda editorial on March 15, 1978, the Eritrean struggle was slandered as "objectively helping the realization of imperialist designs. " The Soviet Union has made it absolutely clear that it is its "ideological and political" choice to support all the way a fascist regime -- the Ethiopian junta -- against a genuine liberation movement -- the just, popular and revolutionary armed national liberation struggle of the Eritrean people.

The Soviet Union, Cuba and East Germany are doing all they can to facilitate, prolong and consolidate the fascist junta's colonial occupation of Eritrea. Towards this end, on top of the escalated military intervention, East Germany has begun enlarging the port facilities of the occupied Eritrean port city of Assab for the Ethiopian fascist regime.

In a double-handed move, the Soviet Union and Cuba, in order to conceal their real intentions -- their large scale military intervention against the Eritrean people, are trying to present themselves as if pursuing a peaceful solution to the Eritrean question. Their so-called "peaceful solution" proposal is only to trap the Eritrean struggle into capitulation. Under the guise of a "political solution" they want the Eritrean people to drop their guns, capitulate to the Ethiopian aggressors and sell out their aspirations for national independence and liberation.

The U.S. imperialists are likewise maneuvering to realize their neo-colonialist designs in Eritrea. Under the pretext of "seeking a peaceful settlement," a "federal solution" for the Eritrean

problem, the U.S. imperialists are working feverishly to preserve Ethiopian colonial occupation in Eritrea. Expressing "concern" over the situation in the Horn of Africa, U.S. imperialist chieftain, President Carter, has been raising the matter in his meetings with foreign leaders. The U.S. imperialists are busy mobilizing broad support for the imposition of their, neo-colonialist solution on the Eritrean people. Also in this connection, the traitorous Sabbe's numerous statements on dialogue with the fascist Dergue without preconditions cannot be seen in isolation. It is part of the U.S. imperialists' counter-revolutionary design. Moreover, the U.S. imperialists, in order to weaken the Eritrean revolution and liquidate the revolutionary forces, are also bolstering the Sabbe clique.

The Eritrean revolution, encircled from all sides, is in its most trying period. An assortment of various reactionaries have their arrows pointed at the Eritrean revolution. Every attempt is being made to bring the Eritrean revolution to its knees. However large scale and varied the counter-revolutionary machinations against the Eritrean revolution may be, it will not reverse the tide in Eritrea. It is a law of history for counter-revolution to make a last ditch effort to encircle and crush a revolution. All genuine revolutions of the past passed through such an experience. The experience the Eritrean revolution is undergoing is not different. It only proves that the Eritrean struggle is truly revolutionary. It only vividly shows how the Eritrean revolution has terribly terrified its enemies.

The Eritrean revolution is a mighty revolutionary torrent which no counter-revolutionary force can crush. It will triumphantly smash all hurdles placed in front of it by its enemies. The conscious, organized and armed Eritrean masses led by the EPLF are well prepared to engage their enemies in bloody battles and smash the counter-revolutionary machinations directed against their noble cause of national independence and liberation. The EPLF has fully mobilized the entire people of Eritrea -- men, women and children -- to carry the self-reliant people's war to victory. The entire people of Eritrea have firmly stood behind the demand "nothing short of total independence" and are prepared to pay whatever price for their freedom, independence and liberation. Neither the junta's savage aerial bombardment, nor the shelling of Soviet warships, nor the intervention of thousands of Cuban troops, nor the

enormous sophisticated Soviet weapons will frighten the Eritrean people. The Eritrean people will never be intimidated. They will defiantly continue their struggle until final victory.

The Eritrean people are not alone. The oppressed peoples of the world are on the side of the Eritrean struggle. Sympathy and support for the Eritrean revolution are mounting throughout the world. The revolutionary forces all over the world, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America, etc, are coming out in support of the Eritrean revolution.

The Eritrean revolution is confronted by many powerful enemies. But Eritrea has dared to take up arms to decide its own destiny. Viet Nam's and Kampuchea's experiences have inspired Eritrea. The Vietnamese people waged a heroic protracted fight against a powerful reactionary force -- U.S. imperialism -- and defeated it. The Eritrean people are likewise putting up a heroic struggle against powerful enemies and will definitely defeat them. "A weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small nation can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their own country. This is a law of history". Small Eritrea has dared to rise in struggle. The Eritrean people are waging a just, popular and revolutionary national liberation war to liberate their country from Ethiopian colonial occupation and establish people's democracy. The Eritrean war is a people's war, a war being fought by the entire people for a just cause. In their 17 years of heroic armed struggle, the Eritrean people have surmounted many obstacles, have won truly spectacular victories and have brought their revolutionary struggle closer to its complete victory. Indeed, the Eritrean people have their destiny in their hands.

It is the revolutionary will and determination of the people fighting for their freedom and liberation rather than the size of troops and quantity of arms of reactionaries that is the decisive factor. "All reactionaries are paper tigers". Now no matter how big the junta's "all out offensive" may be, no matter how huge the Soviet-Cuban intervention may be, and no matter to what extent the U.S. imperialists step up their subversive activities, the Eritrean masses led by EPLF will resolutely resist and emerge victorious.

The fascist junta and its Soviet and Cuban allies will not be able to push the Eritrean revolution even slightly from its position. The EPLF and the Eritrean masses are resolved to continue their struggle and defend the revolutionary gains they have won. Once again, the chain of victories the EPLA is winning against the Ethiopian aggressor troops demonstrates the strategic superiority of the Eritrean revolution over Ethiopian colonial aggression. The Eritrean revolution is invincible.

The Soviet Union, Cuba and the U.S. must keep their hands off Eritrea. The fascist junta, the Soviet Union, Cuba and the U.S. will pay dearly for the crimes they are committing against the Eritrean people. We call on all progressive, revolutionary and democratic forces to closely follow the situation unfolding in Eritrea and firmly stand on the side of the Eritrean revolution. End.