

Zionist Israel Escalates Support for Fascist Ethiopian Junta

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The Workers' Advocate considers the following article exposing Israeli Zionist support for the Ethiopian fascist junta to contain important lessons. The article exposes how not only Soviet-backed Cuban puppet troops, but also the U.S.-backed Israeli Zionists are participating in the slaughter of the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples. The arch-Zionist butcher, Moshe Dayan himself, recently testified to the Israeli military assistance to the Ethiopian junta. This shows concretely how the world system of imperialism is united in one camp against the forces of the revolution and the peoples. It shows the great danger of relying on one superpower and its lackeys against the other superpower and its various lackeys when both superpowers are trying to strangle the revolution. Today, international opportunism is split into two varieties, those who are allied with Soviet social-imperialism and those who seek salvation under the wing of U.S. imperialism. The events in Ethiopia, where Russians, Cubans and East Germans have become the biggest suppliers of mercenaries and weapons to the medieval, barbaric regime of the fascist Dergue, has further exposed the nature of the "anti-imperialism" which the Moscow revisionists advertise. The shelling of the Eritrean revolutionary forces by Soviet destroyers shows exactly what kind of "socialist solidarity" social-imperialism has in store for the peoples.

The events on the battlefields of Ethiopia and Eritrea are also exposing the social-chauvinist apologists of U.S. imperialism who claim that the U.S. superpower has become a timid mouse, is on the "defensive" and is "retreating before Soviet advances". To the contrary, U.S. imperialism is working hand in glove with Soviet social-imperialism to prop up the fascist Ethiopian junta. While having to share with Moscow, U.S. imperialism still has positions within the neo-colonial Ethiopian state. As well, U.S. imperialism maintains its agencies such as the Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU) in Ethiopia and the Osman Sabbe clique in Eritrea. Far from "retreating", U.S. imperialism and its Zionist hangmen are carrying out a savage aggressive policy

against the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples. The fact that the fascist butchers of Israeli Zionism and the Cuban puppet troops have joined into reactionary alliance in Ethiopia demonstrates the correctness of the thesis that the two superpowers, taken separately or together, represent to the same extent and to the same degree the main enemies of the peoples.

The following is reprinted from Eritrea In Struggle, Newsletter of the Association of Eritrean Students in North America, Vol. II, No. 3, December, 1977.

The fascist junta in Ethiopia, despite its high sounding "anti-imperialist" verbiage is a loyal subservient of imperialism and Zionism. Its relations with Israel in particular are closer than ever before. As the support to the junta from U.S. imperialism has recently tended to be more indirect, the Zionists as agents of U.S. imperialism in the area are channeling its (U.S. imperialism) handouts to the junta. Even the bourgeois press admits that "the U.S. is actively encouraging Israel to continue its long military association with Ethiopia. " (Economist, Nov. 12-18, 1977)

Zionist Israel has been and is an arch-enemy of the Eritrean national liberation movement and the struggle of the Ethiopian masses. In the past it fully backed Haile Selassie's autocratic regime and its genocidal war in Eritrea. Its experts were training over 15,000 counter-insurgency commandos who were deployed against the heroic struggle of the Eritrean people. The Zionists still use the Eritrean islands of Haleb and Fatima as centers of spying directed against the Arab people and the liberation movements in the region in general and the Eritrean revolution in particular.

With the present junta in power, the Zionists have tremendously increased their counter-revolutionary involvement against the Eritrean revolution and the struggle of the Ethiopian masses.

Although the junta doesn't maintain full diplomatic relations with Israel, the relationship between the two reactionary states is exceptionally close. In the views of the fascist junta (as it stated to its troops): "The cutting of diplomatic relations is only superficial. With Israel in particular, we have historic relations

dating back to the ancient era. Moreover, both of us are surrounded by the Arab countries which are our common enemies, and it is necessary for us to cooperate against these common enemies."

The Zionists' most obvious support for the fascist junta is in the military sphere and specifically in the training of Ethiopian troops. Israel along with Cuba are the junta's most favored for training assistance. The Israeli experts play an important advisory role in the training of Ethiopian troops.

In the past three years since the junta has ascended to power, Israeli experts have trained over 10,000 troops of the most savage anti-people commando force known as the Nebelbal (Flame Brigade) of whom hundreds have been captured by the EPLF in Naro, Nacfa, Afabet, Keren, Dekemhare and other battles. The hundreds of Israeli trained troops captured by the EPLF have testified that the Israeli experts trained them in a place called Arba. In 1975 and 1976 alone Israeli experts also trained 400 bloodthirsty fascist troops which are hangman Mengistu's personal body guards.

Recently, the Soviet Union and East Germany have been pouring sophisticated weapons into Ethiopia while Cuba provides training assistance for the fascist junta. At the same time the Zionists have also been training scores of tank crews and anti-aircraft weapons operators among others for the junta in Israel itself. In addition, the Israeli Zionists are supplying the junta with spare parts for American weapons, most notably for F-5 jet bombers as well as "Russian tanks, armored personnel carriers, rocket-launchers, small arms and ammunition captured during the 1973 Mid-East War" upon the direction of their U.S. imperialist masters. Moreover, Israel has dispatched technicians to Ethiopia to service the junta's F-5 fighter jets and M-60 tanks supplied by the U.S. imperialists.

In the most critical times Zionist military experts participate in direct combat missions and fly war planes and helicopters for the Ethiopian air force. During the EPLF's siege of Nacfa between September 1976 and March 1977 Israeli experts directed the fascist junta's repeated attempts to save its besieged troops. An Ethiopian brigade commander who defected to the EPLF has corroborated that as Ethiopian pilots failed to

accurately drop parachutes for the trapped aggressor troops Israeli experts took direct charge over the flying and parachute dropping task.

Israeli counter-revolutionary involvement against both the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples is not just confined to military matters. The economic relations between the two fascist states are also intimately close. For instance, 40% of Ethiopia's export and import shipments are handled by the Israeli shipping company, Zima.

The facts speak for themselves. The fascist junta's "anti-imperialism" is but a hoax, a tactic whose main intention is to confuse world public opinion. However, the junta's subservience to imperialism and Zionism and its fascist nature are being unmasked by the mighty national liberation struggle of the Eritrean people led by the EPLF and the Ethiopian people's struggle for people's democracy. There is no doubt that the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples will bury the fascist junta and its imperialist and Zionist backers in the deep graves they have dug themselves.