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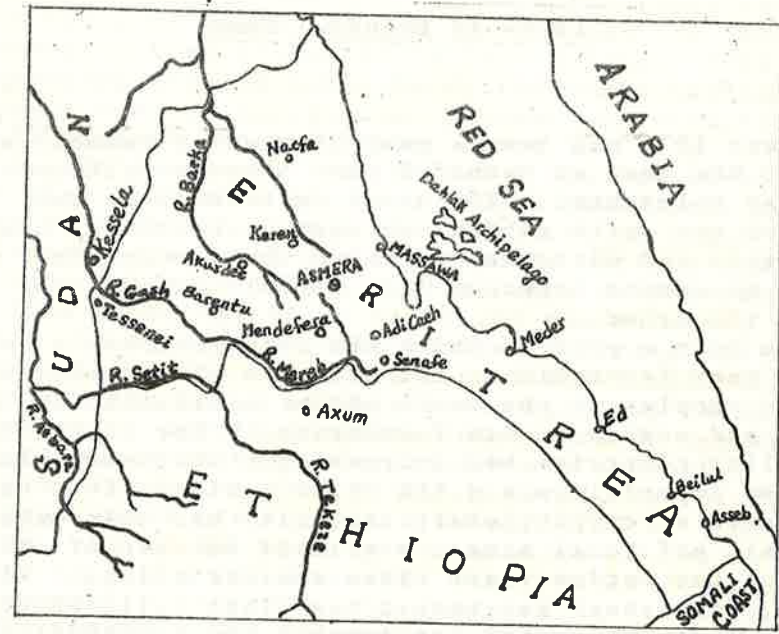
TO LIBERATE THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1
OUR STAND ON THE JUNTA	6
TWELVE YEARS OF COLONIAL REPRESSION	10
WHY DO WE SUPPORT THE E.P.L.F.	13
60 ERITREAN STUDENTS STRANGLED	17
ጸድቆት ንወተሃቲት ቀገራ-ዓጣ	19
እዋጅ ንህዝቢ ንጋርቲ	21
ልዝቆታዎ ግንባር ናይ ዘኩ ብይስተንፍ ንነተት	23
RECENT EVENTS CONFRONTING OUR ADVANCE UNITS	24
THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION SURGES FORWARD	26
ERITREAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN	30

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The Land Occupied



and the Force to Liberate It !

U.N. adopted an important resolution- "the right of the Palestinian people to national independence and sovereignty." Indeed it is a very important victory to the people of Palestine and a concrete symbol of unity and solidarity of the oppressed peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. On the other hand, the Zionist State is being more and more isolated from the international scene.

The people of Indochina and Korea are continuing to press forward in their drive for national independence and liberation. The people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Korea have intensified their armed struggle and mass uprisings against the unpatriotic regimes of Thieu, Lon Nol and Park respectively. In all cases despite the massive military and economic support that U.S. imperialism is increasingly propping up, the struggle of the people is getting vigorous international support.

Like their compatriots in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the people of Oman have been engaged in a fierce life and death struggle against imperialism and its puppets in the region. The fascist regime of the Shah of Iran, a local agent of imperialism, armed to its teeth with modern and sophisticated weapons has invaded Oman since December 1973 and attacked the Democratic Republic of Yemen in order to isolate the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and crush the revolution. However, the repression and the invasion has only awakened the revolutionary spirit and determination of the people to struggle until victory and the P.F.L.O. is inflicting heavy blows on the enemy.

The African people's struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racism have scored major victories. The persistence in armed struggle of the Peoples of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique brought down fascism in Portugal and buried Portuguese Colonialism in Africa. The national liberation movements through a resolute continuation of armed struggle over the years have totally defeated the N.A.T.O. backed military machinery of the fascist regime of Portugal. Thus in August 1974, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau under the leadership of P.A.I.G.C. was born in glory amidst the flames of armed struggle. The people of Mozambique, under the leadership of FRELIMO by persisting in armed struggle had already liberated a large portion of the country and gained vigorous international support by the time the Portuguese fascist regime collapsed. FRELIMO, has now won the recognition by the new Portuguese government, and the complete independence of Mozambique shall be solemnly proclaimed on June 25, 1975.

The victories of the people of Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique will accelerate the revolutionary awakening of the colonized peoples in the rest of Africa: Angola, Azania, Eritrea, Namibia and Zimbabwe. On the other hand, the racist regimes in

Southern Africa and the fascist Ethiopian government, alarmed by these victories have already adopted a dual tactic- political deception and military adventures. However, whatever cunning counter-revolutionary tactics they use, they cannot hold back peoples war.

The racist and fascist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia have become unprecedentedly isolated in other parts of the world as they are in Africa. At the U.N., the demand of Third World countries to reject South Africa from the Organization was vetoed by imperialist powers. However, the growing tide of international solidarity still succeeded in expelling the racist regime from the 1974 U.N. session.

The Eritrean Revolution is a democratic national revolution for liberation and independence. The people of Eritrea have, for the last 13 years, been waging a revolutionary war of national liberation against Ethiopian Occupation, U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism. One of the principal factors that brought the collapse of the Haileselassie government and the prevailing crisis in Ethiopia is the Eritrean peoples persistent armed struggle against the occupation forces of Ethiopia. Despite the heavy financial and military support that the feudal government gets from its masters, U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism, the Eritrean Revolution has inflicted heavy military losses and effectively drained its feeble economy, especially since E.P.L.F. consolidated its power. Just like the armed forces of Portugal, the Ethiopian Occupation army, humiliated, demoralized and frustrated by successive telling blows it suffered at the hands of E.P.L.F., turned against the feudal government of Ethiopia and dethroned Haileselassie and his clique out of power. However, although the oppressed masses of Ethiopia have been agitating for a popular Democratic government, the military instead instituted a repressive state apparatus more fascist than its predecessor.

The military government of Ethiopia has called for a "peaceful solution" to the Eritrean question within the context of its chauvinistic slogan "Ethiopia First". It must also be noted that it is still continuing the fascist massacre and destruction of Eritreans and their property. The call for a "peaceful solution" clearly reflects the advancement of the Eritrean revolution; and a realization by the colonizee that it cannot resolve the Eritrean problem by force of arms, however brute it may be. In desperation, the government is now engaged in a dual tactic of political deception and military adventure to isolate the Eritrean Revolution. Persevering in armed struggle the Eritrean people's victory can never be stopped.

Thus in the year 1974, the contradiction between the oppressed and the oppressors have become so sharp and acute on a world wide scale that imperialism and its lackeys are everywhere

confronted with the ever-rising tide of revolution. The road ahead will not be easy, but tortuous and strenuous will the struggle be. Imperialism, like a wounded animal, can be dangerous and vicious before it finally is laid to rest. However, the great victories that the oppressed peoples of the world won in 1974 will certainly reinforce the solidarity and heighten their revolutionary spirit to persist in a relentless struggle without any let-up till final victory.

The revolutionary effervescence is glowing. Victory of the world revolution is certain.



E.P.I.F. COMRADES PLAN CAREFULLY BEFORE ATTACKING THE ENEMY

OUR STAND ON THE JUNTA AND THE
SUBSEQUENT CHANGE IN ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian people, after a long and brutal oppression and exploitation by the most archaic and backward feudal regime of Haile Selassie, a puppet of U.S. Imperialism and Israeli Zionism, have risen in struggle. The wave of spontaneous mass uprisings (in the sense that these uprisings were neither organized nor coordinated) in the wake of the devastating famine and shattering defeat of the Ethiopian occupation army by the Eritrean national liberation struggle brought about the eventual downfall of Haile Selassie's autocracy. Virtually all sectors of the toiling Ethiopian masses rose up against feudal oppression and imperialist exploitation, demanding basic socio-economic changes and democratic rights.

Imperialism and zionism, realizing the grave danger of a democratic movement to the security and continuity of their interests in the country, quickly conspired to put the military in power. The military regime, whose officers have been groomed in western military academics and imbued with bourgeois norms and values, rushed to seize and consolidate its power. On its coming to power, it pretended to support the will of the people and that it stands for the same principle: political and economic freedom of the people. It exposed the deplorable conditions of famine and disease caused by the rotten feudal regime of Haile Selassie. But it did this only to divert the irresistible force of the people in order to get chance to consolidate its repressive power. Its true nature was soon to be revealed. In its failure to dupe the masses with its reactionary slogan "Ethiopia First", it began to systematically suppress the very social forces whose struggle brought down the old regime. It banned all demonstrations and suspended the few freedoms that the people had initially won. It declared to liquidate any force that opposes its hegemony. Hence, confirming its true nature as the inherent enemy of the oppressed and exploited masses.

In its fear of mass uprising on one hand, and its failure to consolidate and coordinate its power on the other hand, it tumbled into a blind and indiscriminate manslaughter. On Nov. 23, 1974, engulfed by a state of fury and uncertainty, it executed sixty people, among whom were aristocrats (the backbones of Haile Selassie's regime), military officers and simple soldiers; this, of course, can only be viewed against the background of fascistic repression. However, no regrets are

entertained concerning most of the notorious victims. For, in reality, the outburst of fascist violence is indicative of the sharpening struggles within the ruling class.

It is of paramount importance, however, to clearly emphasize that it is only the people, through their revolutionary organs, who hold the legitimate authority to redress their grievances and punish their enemies. This fact is illmined by the contrary acts of the fascistic military regime, whose executions have had the result of further intimidating and terrorizing the masses instead of educating them and raising their consciousness.

Furthermore, the killing of certain individuals from the oppressor and exploiting class cannot be the solution to the unbearable social ills in Ethiopia. Such actions are only deceptive, because they try to evade or gloss over the fundamental problems of Ethiopia, namely, land tenure, national oppression and the colonial occupation of Eritrea.

Almost one month after the executions the military regime changed its reactionary slogan "Ethiopia First" to "Ethiopian Socialism". Nevertheless, one can only look at this against the background of its inherent reactionary and repressive nature. The people cannot be led astray by its shining words, because they have ample experiences of its brutal and savage acts against the masses, and that is the correct and the only way it can be judged.

Ethiopia, under the present form of state apparatus, cannot be a socialist state. For there is only one type of socialism: scientific socialism, which is a stage where political and economic power is transferred from the oppressing and exploiting minority to the oppressed and exploited majority. It is a stage where the complete transformation of the people's mind, way of life and mode of production is reached. This state of life cannot be given as a gift by the good heart of the ruling class. It is only the roughest road that leads to the height of greatness, and socialism can only be won by the long and arduous struggle of the people against the oppressing and exploiting class.

In view of this fact, "Ethiopian Socialism", as declared by the military regime, is nothing more than a device designed to confuse and delude the Ethiopian masses. The interest of the toiling masses of Ethiopia can never gain primacy as long as a reactionary regime remains in power.

Four months have elapsed since the autocrat Haile Selassie was deposed. However, the basic problems of the people persist. People are still dying of famine and suffering from malnutrition. The political situation is worsening. The so-called "peaceful people's revolution" (whose contradiction is not even hidden to the lay man's eyes) has become more violent and bloody.

The number of Eritrean political prisoners and progressive Ethiopians languishing behind prison bars swells every day; leaders of the labor and student movements have been jailed; university

and high school students have been dispersed under the guise of teaching the peasantry; the demoralized occupation army stationed in Eritrea has been receiving thousands of reinforcements; and worst of all, whole sale massacres of unarmed civilians like the Um Hager massacre of 250 villagers, the indiscriminate strangling to death of over fifty teenagers with steel wire in Asmara and its surroundings, continue at an increasing rate in Eritrea. All these clearly expose the fascistic nature of the present military regime. This, indeed, is the character of the present "Ethiopian Socialism".

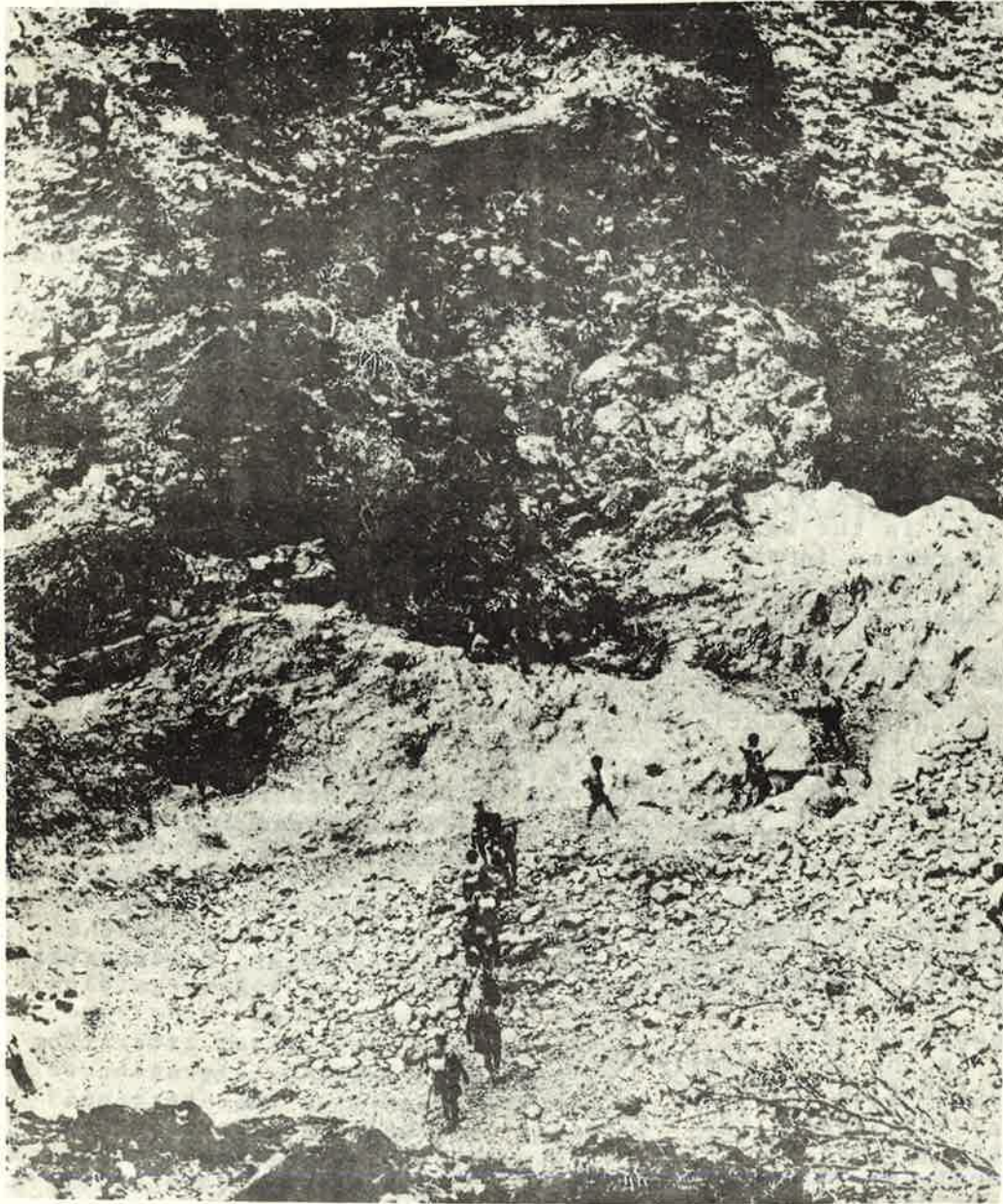
It is crystal clear that the present faecistic military regime cannot address itself to, let alone solve, the fundamental problems afflicting the Ethiopian people and thereby establish a socialist Ethiopia. For, in the final analysis, any military regime is essentially an instrument of oppression and exploitation; even more so in the case of Ethiopia, a country whose ruling class has long sold out to imperialism and zionism. The military regime has tightened the chain of political oppression by pointing the gun towards the people and has spread a cloud of constant fear of death on top of the dreadful condition of famine and malnutrition.

The Ethiopian military regime is a puppet of U.S. imperialism. This offspring of imperialist creation, which has been and is nurtured in the service of the most backward, reactionary feudal regime in the world, the military regime contains no grain of progressive element whatsoever. In short, it is a continuation of Haile Selassie's fascism under a different name, but nevertheless, in the same uniform and in the same style. In essence, it represents the negation of the people's will and is inherently hostile to their well-being. Its retrograde and reactionary nature has now become thoroughly distinct.

It is indispensable to realize, therefore, that under the present concrete conditions, the people of Eritrea and Ethiopia are victims of the same system and are oppressed and exploited by the same enemy: the Ethiopian puppet military regime, U.S. imperialism and Israeli zionism. In view of this fact, therefore, the fundamental problems of Ethiopia can only be solved when the Ethiopian masses, taking the example of the fraternal Eritrean people, wage an armed struggle and establish a new socio-economic order in which the workers and the peasants dictate.

In the final analysis, as far as the national liberation of Eritrea is concerned, the Eritrean People's Liberation Forces has unequivocally and emphatically reiterated that national liberation and the establishment of a democratic people's government can be attained only through the relentless continuation of the armed struggle. In the end, the Eritrean revolutionary

forces are bound to utterly defeat the colonial army of occupation and inflict heavy blows on their imperialist and zionist masters.



TWELVE YEARS OF COLONIAL REPRESSION

Eritrea, a small country of three million people, has been the target of imperialist plunder and aggression for centuries. Especially since the late 19th century it has been ruled by one colonial power after another.

Under Italian colonialism from 1885 to 1941, the British occupied it next until 1952. At this time, by a U.S. sponsored decision, Eritrea was federated with feudal Ethiopia: with the condition that a plebiscite be held in 10 years to determine the will of the people. But during 1952-62 the Ethiopian government, step by step, limited the power of the Eritrean government, removed the nation's flag, banned the General Union of Labor Syndicates and finally on Nov., 1962 formally abolished the federal relationship and annexed Eritrea as the Empire's 14th province.

In these last dozen dark years of Ethiopian colonial rule, the Eritrean people have had to live with and challenge the series of oppressive measures adopted by the feudal Ethiopian government. Though the people would bare and avenge all the monstrous crimes perpetuated, this short article will try to recall some of them.

The feudal regime of Haile Selassie and the present fascist militarists have been among the most loyal stooges of U.S. and other lesser imperialists. They have been ready to mow down whole sections of their own populations to serve international capitalism. This has been repeatedly experienced; as the bombing of the Tigrai people, the shooting down of sugar plantation workers at Wonji and the suppressing of student shows. The Eritrean masses, it should be noted, had to deal with worse conditions, ten times over.

The most glaring examples of fascist repressions has been the wholesale massacre of peasants and occasionally workers and students. Ethiopia's colonial rule, unable to counter the rising consciousness of the masses, their consistent support for the Liberation forces, has vented its fury at innocent peasants. Among the most brutal of these atrocities have been the bombing of Keren in Dec., 1970 and the killing of 1000 and the forced migration of 100,000 others to the Sudan. And recently the army has massacred 250 civilians in the village of Um Hajer after a colonel had been executed from their ranks. Other equally fascistic crimes have regularly occurred. In fact the former Emperor aptly described the Ethiopian ruling class' feeling toward Eritreans when he said "We do not need their people, we only want their land."

When they have not eliminated whole villages, the Ethiopian authorities have forcefully confiscated the livestock, farms

and other valuables from peasants they consider too supportive of the Liberation forces. Eritreans have also been subjected to the poisoning of their streams, rivers and lands. Its mentor, U.S. Imperialism, deeply approving, the colonial regime has built many Vietnam style hamlets, where whole villages are uprooted and forcefully moved. Here they are subjected to strict regulations for the purpose of preventing them from any contact with the Liberation movements in Eritrea.

To the workers of Eritrea, the Ethiopian occupation army has taken the role of the gendarme, preventing them from taking to task, the imperialist owned industries and institutions. Since the first workers were shot in the 1950's when they struck for their democratic rights, the Ethiopian Army has consistently shown its anti-working class and anti-people character. A good example would be the recent strike by the extremely exploited workers of the Baratollo Cotton Company. Earning at most 40 cents a day, the workers had stoned the exploiters residence in rage after his summary refusal to all of their demands. Ten days after the strike had begun, the puppet army announced that the 3000 workers would be liable to immediate dismissal and personal prosecution if they didn't report at their jobs.

Another measure adopted by the feudalists to regress the proletariat from reaching its full potential has been the deliberate forced emigration of the skilled and semi-skilled Eritrean proletariat to Ethiopia and other neighboring states. To do this they have closed most of the relatively abundant industries built by the Italian colonialists. In those that still remain they have had wages on a lower scale than the already rock-bottom in Ethiopia. Still other industries were forced to take their headquarters to Addis Ababa or face paying higher taxes.

To mount all these repressive measures, the feudo-militarists have instituted a series of inhuman laws and regulations which to the concerned eye barely differ from the pass laws of South Africa. Especially since 1970, when a State of Emergency was declared, the life of an ordinary Eritrean, notably that of a peasant, has been at the whim of the local commanding officer. Any Eritrean without an identification card would be very lucky to come out of a soldiers quarters unmolested. Most of the time he may go to the nearest police station until complete verification of identity is possible. In other instances there have been numerous cases of on-the-spot-executions as suspected members of Eritrean Liberation forces.

The regime has also tried to break the will of the people through curfews. Whether in the towns or in the part of the countryside where it has some control, Eritreans are ordered to be in their homes by a certain time. In most areas it is as early as six or seven o'clock when the curfew begins. No

explanation a late stroller gives, would be satisfactory to the neo-Nazi mentality of the occupying soldiers.

As a present day colonialist, Ethiopia has taken a page out of the annals of former ones. It has tried to suppress the traditions and customs which the Eritrean holds dear. Just as the Portuguese feverishly tried to superimpose their language and values over their colonies of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, while ruthlessly denying the legitimacy of the indiginous masses, so has Tigringa, Tigre and other Eritrean languages been undermined. The Ethiopian Empire, where Amhara values are the order of the day is a society where all other nationalities and nations are systematically or otherwise repressed. This is true of Eritrea especially. Whereas there had been a blossoming literature, growing educational opportunities and a general uptrend in the people's theoretical consciousness, the Haile Selassie regime brought with it the dark ages of book burning, denial of publication of Eritrean writings, and the complete Amharization of the educational system. No new schools were allowed to be open and students were thus forced to join their proletariat compatriots in the emigration to the south.

The Eritrean thus finds himself in a literal hell. Denied of his most elementary rights, his economic plight steadily worsening, his status in the Ethiopian State always unclarified, he has found his only salvation in the struggle being waged by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Forces. It is there that the oppressed languages of Eritrea are progressing, there where democratic rights of the individual and the whole people are respected. It is there where the nucleus of a free progressive state is being established. In short, it is there where the seed for the destruction of everything the imperialist backed Ethiopian government stands for, has steadily grown.

Since February 1974, massive upsurges by the Ethiopian people had forced the imperialists to change the tune in their handling of the people. They have installed a military junta, which has tried to compromise the struggle of the masses by a populist announcement of "Ethiopian Socialism" in the context of its chauvinist slogan, "Ethiopia First". That its essence has not changed from that of its predecessor could be seen in their handling of the Eritrean situation. In addition to the above mentioned massacre at Um Hajer, they have sent more than 10,000 soldiers to reinforce their position. In the final days of December they even went to the extent of strangling more than 50 students in Asmars, the capital. Nothing better illustrates the slogan, "Ethiopia First" than this deed.

WHY DO WE SUPPORT THE E.P.L.F.?

The existence of two fronts (the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, R.C of E.L.F. and the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Forces, E.P.L.F.) and the intermittent fighting between the two that has raged for the last 3 years has caused serious setbacks to the Eritrean struggle. Which one is the progressive front? What is the cause of the Civil War? What is the road to the building of a national united front?

The start of the Eritrean people's armed struggle against Ethiopian occupation in 1961 came after the Eritrean people had exhausted all peaceful means to regain and safeguard their national rights. As such it reflected the deepest aspirations of the Eritrean masses, enjoyed their wide support and spread quickly.

And yet, when the bourgeoisie leadership of the E.L.F. launched the armed struggle it was not preparing to mobilize the Eritrean masses for a protracted people's war. It saw the armed struggle as a means of pressuring the U.N. (which was responsible for federating Eritrea to Ethiopia) to listen to the demands of the Eritrean people. Consequently it did not have a clear political line or programme to lead the Eritrean people's war till total liberation.

When the U.N. kept turning a deaf ear to its appeals and the armed struggle continued, the ideological, political and organizational bankruptcy of the E.L.F. became quite open. Instead of national liberation it:

1. mobilized the people on narrow religious, tribal and regional basis.
2. Outside it preached that it was an Eritrean Arab struggle, Moslem struggle, etc.
3. It was militarily aimless and had no strategy.
4. The worst was its relations with the people. It fanned the religious and tribal contradictions among the fighters and the people. It forced the masses to pay taxes and more often plundered cattle, etc., which were sold in Sudanese Markets.

During this whole period, the E.L.F. leadership lived in luxury abroad. Nearer the field on the border town on Kassala, it installed a petty bourgeoisie intellectual clique. Inside the field it installed peasant chieftains as the commanders of the five divisions of the front. This was the situation in the E.L.F. in 1964 when progressive workers and students started joining

the front in large numbers.

From then on two ideological tendencies are clear. The progressive fighters started agitating against the tribal, religious divisions in the front, for uniting the people and mobilizing them on a national and democratic basis. They opposed the external propaganda that the E.L. movement is a muslim movement or an Arab struggle, and indeed that the propaganda be carried out. They agitated for the converging of a national Congress which would delineate a correct political programme for the revolution. Their incessant work and the objective facts of the Revolution bore fruit in September 1968, when it succeeded in breaking the power of the chieftainship in three out of the five divisions of the Front. It must be noted that before September 1968, the E.L.F. was divided into five regions, with regional chiefs vying for power and ready to do in any of their rivals even to the point of creating excuses for not helping another regional command attacked by the enemy. When it knew this conditions, Ethiopia launched a military offensive and "pacification program" on a divide and rule basis in 1967. That year saw the greatest massacre of the Eritrean peasantry and the exodus en masse to the Sudan for refuge. So confident was Ethiopia of its success that it boasted that the Eritrean "bandits" had been "wiped out."

Out of this experience, the masses were agitating for the unity of the five divisions of the front and thus the "unity of the three" enjoyed their backing. After failing to sow dissension in the ranks of the "Unity of the Three" and realizing that the masses were agitating for unity, the reactionary E.L.F. leadership adopted a new tactic. At the military conference of Adobaha (August, 1969) it agreed to form a united front with the "Unity of the Three" and elect a provisional leadership, the General Command.

The reactionary bourgeoisie and feudalist leaders used the majority they had on the G.C. and moved swiftly to crush all democratic opposition to their reactionary line and policies. They imprisoned all revolutionary leaders of the G.C. and assassinated over 600 progressive fighters in cold-blood. When the progressive and democratic forces in the E.L.F. realized that there was no way to change the reactionary line and policies from within, they split from the G.C and formed the E.P.L.F. in April 1970.

The E.P.L.F. was not formed because of the whims of one or two individuals. It is a democratic front that was formed after ten years of internal struggle against the anti-nationalist and reactionary leadership. The main objective of its struggle was to overcome the setbacks the struggle suffered since 1961 because of its reactionary leadership and to delineate a clear political line to lead the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed masses of Eritrea.

To achieve its objectives, it wiped out illiteracy among the fighters (95% of whom were illiterates), started systematic political education to raise their consciousness and in this way succeeded in wiping out the backward religious, regional and tribal fanaticism which had gained dominance under the reactionary leadership. As a result the E.P.L.F. succeeded in building a politically conscious people's army, which no force can wipe out. The quality of the people's forces was tested in December 1973-June, 1974, when 7,000 Ethiopian troops attacked the E.P.L.F. base in Northern Eritrea. In fierce battles that took over 14 days, the E.P.L.F. successfully defended its base and inflicted heavy casualties on the aggressors, annihilating over 300 of them (this was one of the reasons that the 2nd division of the Ethiopian army, which is stationed in Eritrea, took over Asmara and forwarded a list of demands which sparked the revolt of the Ethiopian armed forces in February of 1974 and finally led to the downfall of Haile Selassie).

Although without a people's army there can be no revolution the E.P.L.F. realizes that the people's army alone is not enough. The masses must be made conscious, mobilized and organized in the millions to participate in the struggle. To do this, it had to break the religious and tribal divisions which the reactionary leadership had fostered among the people and to win over those that had turned against and even taken up government arms against the front. It has started to educate the masses, provide them with medical attention and encourage them to give their views and criticisms of the E.P.L.F. and its programmes.

At present, the Eritrean revolution is at the national democratic stage and the EPLF strives to mobilize all classes and strata opposed to Ethiopian feudal colonialism, U.S. Imperialism and Israeli zionism. However, it bases itself primarily on the worker and peasant masses and fights for the leadership of the working class in the national democratic revolution.

The presence of a progressive organization and the warm welcome it received from the masses terrified the reactionary leadership of the G.C. Fighters began to desert it en masse and join the E.P.L.F. The power which it had consolidated through deceit, plunder and assassination was crumbling before its very eyes. Consequently, it hurriedly called for a "National Congress" which was held in December 1971. The celebrated "National Congress" replaced the G.C. with the R.C. which included almost all the members of the old reactionary leadership. Among its most important resolutions, it characterized the E.P.L.F. as "the counter-revolution" and decided to "wipe it out" by force of arms. As a "theoretical" justification for its action it has pointed out that "the existence of more than one front is either adventurist attempt or the conspiracy of colonialists.

In both cases, those who stand behind it betray the revolution irrespective of the class they belong to. Consequently, the maintenance of such unity is of axial importance and must be confronted with unwavering determination." The solution is to "launch an attack against counter-revolution, liquidate its danger and assume command of the revolution."

Thus, confusing the primary and secondary contradictions in the Eritrean struggle and the different methods of resolving them, the R.C. launched a reactionary civil war against the E.P.L.F. in February of 1972. The civil war has continued for the past 3 years causing tremendous harm to the revolution. Even when the Ethiopian regime was in serious political, economic and social crises and the Er. freedom fighters could have taken advantage of the situation, the X.F.L.F. was directing its guns against the E.P.L.F.

On the other hand, the E.P.L.F. has called for a democratic solution to the internal contradictions and has raised the slogan, "All our guns against our colonizers, a democratic solution to the secondary contradictions." While the R.C. is spreading malicious propaganda against the E.P.L.F. saying "It is an agent of the Ethiopian government", "It has received millions to work for a federation between Eritrea and Ethiopia", "It has been wiped out", "Its leaders have been killed", etc., the E.P.L.F. is striving to educate its fighters and those under the leadership of the R.C. as well as the broad masses on the need for unity and cessation of the civil war.

The masses of the Eritrean people also desire the unity of all the fighters who are fighting for an independent and democratic Eritrea. Early in September of '72, over 30,000 people met with the two groups and called on them to stop the civil war and presented them with a list of proposals. While the E.P.L.F. presented similar proposals and accepted the proposals of the masses, the R.C. arrogantly rejected the proposals and declared it would continue the civil war.

This is the history and practice of the R.C. (E.L.F.) and the E.P.L.F. We support the E.P.L.F. because it overcame the serious setbacks and mistakes of the Front which could have lead to the temporary liquidation of the Eritrean Revolution. We also support it for its progressive, democratic and revolutionary ideological, political and organizational lines. While we support the E.P.L.F. and denounce the reactionary leadership of the R.C. for its crimes against the revolution we call for a united front between the two groups and as a first step for an end to the civil war. This is specially necessary when the fascist Ethiopian Junta has sent over 13,000 more troops and vowed to "fight till the last drop of blood" to forcibly suppress the Eritrean people's aspirations for independence and democracy.

Down with the Ethiopian Military Junta!
Down with the reactionary civil war!
Long live the E.P.L.F.!

The present situation in Eritrea has reached an alarming stage. The Ethiopian occupation army, true to its fascist nature, has in the week of December 20-27, 1974 strangled 60 Eritrean students by telephone wire in the city of Asmara - capital city of Eritrea. The corpses were found thrown in aisles and door ways.

The recent strangling of Eritrean students and the youth is one of the most savage, barbaric cold blooded massacres ever faced by the Eritrean people. This systematic and vicious method of killing civilians and particularly of annihilating the youth poses an imminent danger to the survival of the Eritrean nation. It is designed as a means of intimidating and horrifying the people to relent their aspirations for national liberation and independence. The Eritrean youth (students, workers and peasants) is at present the target of the fascist puppet military regime. Hunting down Eritreans, torturing, executing and imprisoning them en masse has become the latest and main strategy of undermining and isolating the Eritrean people's liberation movement. Indeed it is a frantic policy, an act of desperation, carried out in response to the military defeat suffered by the Occupation army at the hands of the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Forces.

The whole of Eritrea has been under martial law. The Ethiopian military regime has now imposed a strict curfew in Asmara and other towns from dusk to dawn. Under this repressive and fascist pretext, the army has killed and wounded several people; and 800 young Eritreans have been thrown behind prison bars. Furthermore Eritreans are being eliminated secretly while they are in prison.

In the month of December, the military regime, in its effort to crush the Eritrean liberation movement, has stepped up its military size. It has dispatched more than 10,000 additional troops into Eritrea. Asmara and other towns have become virtual military camps. This suffocating political situation has been accompanied by a reign of terror. Torture, looting, rape, forced evacuation and indiscriminate killings have become the daily lot of the Eritrean people.

This is not all. Eritreans in Ethiopia and particularly in Addis Ababa are being harrassed, intimidated and jailed by the Junta simply because they are Eritreans and may be sympathizers of EPLF. Eritreans are also brazenly discriminated in jobs and business activities.

All the recent savage strangling and massacres of Eritreans are not isolated acts of the Occupation army nor are they new to the Eritrean people. Since the start of the armed struggle, thirteen years ago, the Ethiopian colonial regime has committed innumerable atrocious crimes. It has followed a scorched earth policy of "kill all, burn all" in rural areas. The Ethiopian occupation army brutally bombarded the town of Keren, massacred 250 peasants at Um Hajer in August 1974; and the reign of terror has forced more than 100,000 Eritreans to flee their homeland and languish in refugee camps in the Sudan and other countries.

The atrocious crimes perpetrated by the Ethiopian occupation army enjoy the full backing and participation of U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism. In addition to the \$16 million previously offered, the U.S. government has promised the fascist puppet regime \$120 million worth of arms.

Like the Vietnamese, Palestinian and African peoples, the heroic Eritrean people cannot be intimidated by any brute force. Neither can the Eritrean people be fooled to let up their struggle by the seemingly progressive slogan "Ethiopian Socialism" nor the deceitful call for a "peaceful solution" to the Eritrean question within the context of the chauvinist slogan "Ethiopia first". In Ethiopia, the fascist regime has already unleashed its repressive machinery on the people. It has banned demonstrations, strikes and civil liberties. Trade union leaders, students and other progressive elements are either being eliminated or jailed. The military regime call for "peaceful solution" in Eritrea is a political deception designed to cover up its military adventures.

The barbaric crimes will harden the determination of the Eritrean people to persist in armed struggle until victory. The EPLF, entrenching its roots deeper among the masses, is expanding and consolidating the Eritrean revolution and inflicting telling blows on the enemy.

All enemies of the Eritrean people will come to no good end; the birth of an independent and democratic Eritrea is certain.

Since there were no suggestions submitted by Kiada el Ama, the people's committee, after observing and considering all the prevailing conditions, presented the following points as a basis for reconciliation:

- 1) A cease-fire should be established between EPLF and Kiada el Ama. Anyone who violates the cease-fire should be condemned by the people.
- 2) Following the implementation of the cease-fire agreement, a dialogue should start on October 30 between EPLF and Kiada el Ama to resolve their differences.
- 3) Until a dialogue of reconciliation starts, the Kiada el Ama unit should stay north of the Felfel River and the EPLF unit south of that river.
- 4) The ceasefire declaration should be announced to the people.
- 5) Cease-fire observance should be accompanied by an end to accusations and counter-accusations of one against the other.
- 6) City dwellers who support EPLF or Kiada should not be threatened by either one.

All the above suggested points of reconciliation presented by the people's committee were fully accepted by our comrades, while Kiada el Ama, after waiting for a week, has announced on 12/10/74 its categorical rejection of all the points.

Today (13/10/74) early in the morning at 5:30 in Zaigre, Kiada has opened fire on our force.

The Palestinian Revolution Surges Forward!

Hail the tenth Anniversary of the beginning of armed struggle for the liberation of Palestine!

January 1, 1975, is the tenth anniversary of the Palestinian People's armed struggle for the restoration of their national rights. Since inception it has gone through many stages and developed into a forceful people's war. Today, the Palestinian revolution holds a key position in the world-wide struggle against colonialism, imperialism and zionism, and has become the vanguard of the arab people's revolution in the middle East. Persisting on the revolutionary road of people's war, the Palestinian people have gained significant victories on many fronts. They have dealt heavy military defeats on the Israeli Zionists, and internationally have gained increasingly wide support from the world's people - leaving the Zionists and their imperialist masters exposed and isolated.

The Zionist invasion of Palestine began with the full backing of the British colonialists who through their "Balfour Declaration of 1917 gave their full support to the world Zionist movements scheme to create a "national homeland" for the Zionists in Palestine. Thus, the Palestinian people's struggle against imperialism and world Zionism began. Terrorist campaigns by Zionist movements, like the Hagana, Stern Gang, etc., against the Arab population, where countless acts of terror, shooting, bombings were committed. All these were definite attempts to forcefully drive the Palestinian people off their land and to forcefully create a racist, religious and sectarian state on their homeland. However, the Palestinian people rose up very militantly right from the very beginning and resisted against the Zionist and imperialist aggression. They waged vigorous protest movements throughout the country, refused to sell their land, and opposed the terrorist campaigns of the Zionist groups. During the period of 1936-38, the Palestinian people waged a six month long general strike and waged an armed rebellion which lasted for three years.

After the 2nd World War, the U.S. imperialists began to give support to the Zionist movement in their efforts to colonize Palestine. Through manipulation of the U.N. which was then under U.S. control, the partition of Palestine in 1947 took place. And the war of annexation there-of culminated in the crushing of the Palestinian and other Arab people's resistance, and the Zionist State of Israel was created in May 1948. These brazen acts of colonization and terrorist campaigns such as the Dier Yassim Massacre, where 254 innocent men, women and children were cold bloodedly massacred by Zionist gunmen, caused one million Palestinians to leave their country and become refugees.

The creation of the Zionist state and its existence there-
of were based on brazen annexation of Arab land and ruthless
exploitation and suppression of the Palestinian and other Arab
people. The Zionist state of Israel, as an outpost of imper-
ialism in the Middle East joined hands with the British
and French imperialists in 1956, to launch a barbarous aggression
on Egypt to seize the Suez Canal. They were however, repelled
by the militant resistance of the Arab people who forced the
aggressors to withdraw. In 1967, the Israeli Zionists launched
their third war of annexation. Armed to the teeth by U.S.
imperialism, the Zionists attacked the Arab countries, seizing
the Golan Heights from Syria, West Bank and Jerusalem from
Jordan and the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt.
This brought about a large scale emigration of Palestinians
bringing the total of refugees to 2 million.

The Palestinian people who were scattered throughout the
Arab World, participated in the general Arab political movements
and after a period of vain attempts to have various Arab regimes
champion their cause and bring solutions through peaceful
persuasion and negotiations, they summed up their experience and
organized an armed struggle to regain their lost homeland.
On January 1, 1965, the first shots against Israeli Zionism were
fired by the members of AlFateh-and the war of national liber-
ation began. The Palestinian people took their destiny into their
own hands and started to wage a protracted people's war.

The Palestinian national liberation has vigorously developed
since 1965 and it has scored many victories against the Israeli
Zionists and U.S. imperialists. Attempts to liquidate their
revolution has time and time again been defeated by the resolute
struggle of the revolutionary guerrilla forces and the masses
of the Palestinian people who are uniting more and more closely
under the banner of people's war and the slogan "Revolution until
victory". For example, in 1968, at the victorious Battle of
Karemah, Palestinian fighters heroically repelled the attacks
of the 15,000 Zionist troops and militantly defended their rev-
olutionary base. In the following years, the Palestinian
National Liberation Movement grew stronger and gained many more
brilliant successes.

The growing strength of the Palestinian revolution, caused
the U.S. led imperialists to go into a frenzy and they began
to plot one "peace" scheme after another in an attempt to strangle
the Palestinian and other Arab peoples struggle and to save their
Zionist lackeys from utter doom. In 1970, the U.S. imperialists
put forward the "Rogers Plan" whereby a "Palestinian State" would
be created on various occupied territories for the Palestinian
people. This would legalize the existence of Israel, create a
puppet Palestinian state and thus liquidate the Palestinian
people's armed struggle for genuine liberation of their homeland.

The U.S. imperialists, in order to maintain their Zionist
base of aggression and control in the Middle East, give millions
of dollars worth of economic and military aid to state of Israel.
Other reactionary Arab States are also used for the same end.
Among the most notorious has been a bloody war against the
Palestinian Resistance. Under constant prodding by the imperialists,
King Hussein massacred more than 10,000 patriots and gravely
set back the Palestinian Revolution. Gaining from these exper-
iences, the Palestinian people have persisted in relying on their
own strength and initiative and are intensifying their armed
struggle. The October War of 1973, was a decisive blow to the
imperialists and Zionists. During the October War, the
Palestinian, Egyptian and Syrian fighters, took their destiny
into their own hands, shattered the no-war, no peace situation
imposed on them by the imperialists and destroyed the myth of
"Israeli invincibility".

However, the unfolding development of the Palestinian
liberation movement is increasingly weakening the stronghold of
imperialism in M.E. After the twelfth Palestinian National Council
held in Cairo in June '74, the P.L.O. has won resounding victory
over imperialists, the Zionists and their lackeys, by mobilizing
the masses of Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza under
its leadership and by achieving the wide recognition as the
legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.
This has crushed the chances of the Zionists and Hussein's
regime from grooming their own lackeys to negotiate in the name
of the Palestinian nation. This has placed the P.L.O. in a
position of strength. The P.L.O.'s resolute opposition to
Initiative 242 and their struggle to establish and ensure the
recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people and
oppose any recognition of the Zionist state of Israel has won
wide support from the Arab countries and other peoples and
countries of the world. This development of events has left the
enemy in disarray and the just struggle of the Palestinian people
has greatly advanced. The ever-increasing strength of the
P.L.O. and the vigorous and vigilant struggle of the masses of
the Palestinian people is bound to smash to smithereens all the
schemes of the imperialists, Zionists and other reactionaries.
The just struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their nation-
al rights and to establish a democratic, non-sectarian state in
Palestine will certainly be victorious!

On the historic occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, E.F.L.N.A. would like to reaffirm its resolute solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. The Eritrean people, who are also victims of colonialism, imperialism and zionism, have been waging resolute armed struggle for over 13 years. The U.S. imperialists and the Israeli zionists in order to protect their interests in M.E. and Africa and to establish a military stronghold in the strategic location of Eritrea, have fully backed the Ethiopian feudo-colonial government of Haile Selassie and now the military junta, in suppressing the national liberation struggle of the Eritrean people. Not only do they want to maintain their economic and military interests but actually to use Eritrea as a base of aggression against our Palestinian and other Arab brothers and sisters who are fighting for their liberation.

The Eritrean people view the Palestinian masses and fighters and other Arab masses as their close allies and will continue their militant struggle for national liberation side by side with their Arab comrades in arms and contribute to the final destruction of their common enemies.

Victory to the National Liberation Struggle of the Palestinian People!

Long live the unity of the Palestinian and Eritrean people!

Victory to the National Liberation Struggle of the Eritrean People!



HEALING THE WOUNDS OF OPPRESSION

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DOWN WITH THE FASCIST ETHIOPIAN JUNTA !

DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM AND ISRAELI ZIONISM !

RY TO THE ERITREAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION !

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, UNITE !

**SUPPORT
THE JUST STRUGGLE
OF THE ERITREAN PEOPLE
FOR
NATIONAL LIBERATION**



A Young Fighter of the Women's Brigade

Eritreans for Liberation in North America.