JUNTA "REORGANIZES": IT IS ANOTHER FRAUD YET!

The last several weeks have seen a lot of fanfare being made regarding the most recent proclamation which "determines" the "powers and responsibilities" of the Ethiopian military junta and that of its Council of Ministers. The junta's mass media has been making wild claims about the "revolutionary" and "Marxist-Leninist" nature of its recent exploits—just like countless other decrees and proclamations that it has issued in the past. And once again the international press, bourgeois and revisionist alike, is echoing this same declarations. The Ethiopian masses, whose heroic struggle and combative initiatives are dealing heavy blows to the fascist junta, have long understood that this and the many others issued in the past are merely expressions of despair and arrogance at worst and sugar-coated bullets of counter-revolution at best. The deceptive nature of this manuscript as well as the disgusting serenade played by the junta's mass media and its "friends" elsewhere merits a few comments.

Any action of a government is determined by the nature of the state and the class it represents. The state in any society is not a body that stands above classes or reconciles class differences, but rather an organ of class rule by which a definite class exercises its dictatorship over other classes. The different kinds of states obtaining in the world today can be categorized broadly into two types of dictatorships—revolutionary dictatorships and counter-revolutionary dictatorships. In the former case, we are referring to the people's democratic dictatorship based on the alliance of revolutionary and democratic classes and social strata under the leadership of the working class and its party as well as the state system of the dictatorship of the proletariat (i.e., socialist states). By counter-revolutionary dictatorship, we refer to the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and all other reactionary classes over the broad masses. This could assume a multitude of forms.

The present day Ethiopian state, controlled as it is by the fascist military goons and the social-fascist petty-bourgeois propagandists, both serving the bureaucratic and compradore bourgeoisie, falls within the latter category. Despite the fact that it has meticulously attempted to hide its counter-revolutionary nature by persistently masquerading behind high-sounding "socialist" phraseology and pious pronouncements and slogans, and this thanks to the Haile Pida- Senai Likke clique of social-
One other aspect of the decree which demands close scrutiny is the expressed desire of the junta in coordinating "efforts of progressive forces (read social-fascist renegades and pro-Junta elements) to establish a working class party". Such a party has been in the air for over two years. We were told at that time that it will be a party of "all classes", of "people", etc. But for quite a while now the talk about a working class party has been getting louder and louder. Why this sudden "charge of heart"? Since the EFF, the vanguard of the Ethiopian proletariat and the undisputed leader of the Ethiopian New Democratic Revolution, declared its program over a year-and-a-half ago (after a 3 years of clandestine existence), the junta and the renegade clique have been thrown into a fit of rage and desperation, and their vile scheme of presenting their so-called "party" was heavily frustrated at that time. After that their "Ethiopian socialism" was re-baptised to "scientific socialism", followed by such pompous slogans as "a new democratic revolution", "revolutionary united front", "a working class party", and what not.

What sort of a working class party can they possibly talk about? You have guessed it all: a "working class party" without the working class, no doubt! The heroic Ethiopian proletariat, which has unequivocally supported, embraced and defended the EFF, has already passed its verdict on such manoeuvres of the junta when it resolved in its September, 1975 Congress as follows:

...such being the reality and when the government has suppressed and trampled upon democratic rights whether one likes it or not, the organization of the masses, a party which is formed by the government for its own interest with hand-picked individuals who are neither elected by nor represent in any way the broad masses is unacceptable. Such a party cannot fulfill the interests, needs and objectives of the oppressed masses and as such cannot be supported by the oppressed masses in general and the proletariat in particular. Such a party is a device by which those who are thrown out through the front door wear their way in by the back door. Such a party cannot safeguard and promote the rights and interests of the council members as its very creation is meant to dupe and lord over the masses, the proletariat in general and the council members in particular. It is being established with the very purpose of deceiving the masses.

And it is such a working class which is called "unconscious" of its class interests! And it is its vanguard -- the EFFR -- which is called "anarchist" and whose liquidation is the principal preoccupation of the junta and its hired intellectuals.

Seen with this in mind their talk about "facilitating the establishment of a working class party" is simply a fraud designed to deny what is already common knowledge, that the junta's position does, in itself, therefore legalize the already practiced rights of each and every member of the EFF.

But why come at such a time? Since it usurped power, the junta has been bent with contradictions and factions even within its own ranks. Attempted coups and counter-coups, rumor of impending coups, are not unusual. For example, the Abune (the head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church) had to interfere in order to avoid "bloodshed" of an impending coup, and to "safeguard the revolution"(1). Recent dissatisfaction among members of the armed forces which are expressed through mass defections as well as low morale are also shaking the very foundations of its power. Hence this proclamation is an attempt to cover up this state of desperation and to hoodwink the people into believing that there is a "courageous leadership" preparing the way for a new "normalcy". But fact are facts and nothing can be further from the truth. Tefari Benti or mengisti, Teafey or any other demon cannot change the nature of the state by decree.

(1) More words about some other aspects of the junta's decree remain to be said. The junta's attempt at normalcy, preparing the way for "normalcy" or "over power to whom it belongs -- the people." A lofty and noble sounding phrase which, however, should be seen as an attempt to know welcome move, indeed -- if it were not just babbling, their attempt at know welcoming move of the people. This attempt at normalcy, "the masses" can only be taken to mean preparing the necessary public opinion for the declaration of the phony party. But the new party of the masses are already prepared under the leadership of the EFF to overthrow the dark rule of the fascist junta.
Further, "handing over power to whom it belongs" can only mean handing over power to their "party" -- to themselves, that is! "Hanging" over power to historic for its weirdness and absurdity nevertheless!!

Such are the features of this perfidious scheme. It is doomed to fail. As these fascists and social-fascists cannot reconcile themselves to their class enemies, i.e. the broad masses of the Ethiopian masses, they have to go on making reactionaries never learn from their mistakes: they make trouble, fall; make trouble, fall again; again and again till their doom! This is the logic of all reactionaries. And these Ethiopian fascists and their intellectual mentors cannot go against this logic!

THE RESTEGE JUNTA
Who Fights It?
It did it all by itself!

"Ethiopian Socialism" "Scientific Socialism" "New Democratic Revolution"... "Reorganization"... We tried them all. What more should we try? ... if only we can smash the S.P.R.O. and save its skin!!!

THAT IS THE DUAL NATURE OF THE REJIGE TODAY: REORGANIZATION IN LIEU OF A COMPLETE POLARIZATION ON THE ONE HAND AND CONSPIRACY FOR ALLIANCE WITH ALL COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES.

Abiyot, Vol. 2, No. 1

The eastern media has, in the last several weeks, been reporting about apparent 'successors' by the so-called "Ethiopian Democratic Union" which is said to have captured several villages and towns in north-western and western Ethiopia. Nurna is reported to have fallen into the hands of these dust bins of history and several roaming bandits are said to be controlling isolated pockets of territory, massacring peasants, burning villages where they were resisted. Such, for example, was the long story on The Washington Post of January 22, 1977.

The fascist military junta, besieged as it is by the popular mass struggle under the revolutionary leadership of the EPRP and its armed wing, the EPPA, which is dealing telling blows to its fascist forces throughout the country, is conveniently keeping quiet. In fact, its mass media is no longer mentioning the EPRP in its propaganda and, as Abiyot (Vol. 2, No. 1) points out, Mengistu is in fact holding secret meetings and negotiations with the warlord organisation of aristocrats. ... The Mengistu-controlled media has changed its tune from "EPRP and EDDU are one and the same" to "EPRP alone is the main enemy" and the reference to EDDU as enemy or even as a revolutionary is progressively vanishing. ... And the long expected reunion between these sworn enemies of the Ethiopian revolution -- the EPRP and the EDDU -- may soon see the light of day!

As we have repeatedly been reporting the principal preoccupation of these feudal bandits and scum has been the "annihilation" of the revolution. This aim has been pursued by the EPRP and the EDDU. U.S. imperialism, pawns of reactionary states such as Ayotte, Sudan, Kenya and the state apparatus of the Ethiopian junta is instrumental in assisting these notorious enemies of the Ethiopian people. The junta's diplomatic apparatus has specially been of vital help to them (see Forward, 82)
News Briefs

1. JUNTA GONE DOWN DEMONSTRATORS
   A huge anti-junta, anti-imperialist mass demonstration was held in Addis Ababa on January 30. Demonstrators distributed propaganda and agitation leaflets, expressing support to the EFFR and the EFFA smashed windows and threw gasoline bombs at the U.S. and British Council buildings. Both centers of imperialist propaganda and subversion. The junta, this running dog of U.S. imperialism, ordered its butchers to shoot indiscriminately at the demonstrators and an official death of one and serious injury of six was reported.

2. UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOLS CLOSED DOWN
   University students in Addis Ababa went on strike beginning January 27 once more telling the fascist junta and its ideological boogials that nothing will stand on their way from upholding and defending the just and revolutionary cause of the Ethiopian masses. High schools and elementary schools in the capital as well as throughout the country have been in similar states of crisis. Schools, university and down, continue to be closed and citizens are being harassed.

3. 32 JUNTA SOLDIERS DIE FROM THE ENTIRE BATTLEFIELD
   97 Ethiopian soldiers, led by a captain Abebe Chere, have surrendered to Japanese authorities at a Japanese village called Saron. According to the Sudan Standard Sun of January 9, these soldiers fled the battlefield when reinforcements failed to come during the battle with the EFFR.

Earlier, both the Sudan and Ethiopia had recalled their ambassadors following a speech by Runali on December 23, which accused the Ethiopian junta of conspiring to overthrow him. Since then both the Sudan and Ethiopia have been attacking each other, labeling accusations and counter-accusations against one another.

4. Desertion by Junta’s Army Continues
   Following the persistent agitation and propaganda work by both the EFFR and the EFFA, increasing numbers of the junta’s armed forces are defecting and joining the ranks of the people’s forces.

About, Vol. 2, No. 4, reports for example that a total of 82 paratroopers have recently handed themselves up to the EFFR together with their leading officers and arms. Seven 2nd lieutenants who graduated from the Hararr Military Academy have done likewise. Further, 1 captain, a lieutenant and four labour union leaders who had finished their course in Bulgaria on “party construction”, have also joined the EFFR; they did this after suddenly disappearing at the Rome airport on their way back to Ethiopia.

There are, of course, other reports which indicate that a handful of fascist and reactionary commissioned officers from among the junta’s own ranks and its armed forces are also joining the EFFR. Well, this is to be expected in any such class confrontation. While the predominant majority, perhaps well over 90% of the “soldiers”, which is invariably means reactionary, despotic members or suspected members and sympathizers of the EFFR. In case you have been wondering how the word anarchist can be used to define Marxist-Leninists, you are in for a great surprise — you see, these “gifted and blessed” pseudo-Marxists have defined the scientific definition of anarchism is wrong — so they have you understand that Marxists-Leninists. What else can you expect from people who have sworn enemies of the Ethiopian masses!

---

Learning by Negative Example: From The Pages of The Junta’s Papers

The inheritors of Haile Selassie’s palace are probably wondering why the circulation of their newspapers has decreased so drastically. Let us give them a hint: It’s because the utter nonsense, blatant lies, and the oversaturation of empty promises that your papers carry every day are giving no reason to readers to buy them. Your newspapers, those same old propaganda organs of a counter-revolutionary state machine, have not changed a bit in essence from what they were during the time of your predecessor. In one thing, however, you have surpassed Haile Selassie: you have raised the art of demagogy to an unprecedented scale.

Dear reader, we would like to bring to your attention the new gimmick that the junta’s papers have been using for some time now:

---

On the left and right corners of their front pages quotations from the great Marxist-Leninist leaders and teachers side by side with the fascist slogans and statements of the junta’s personnel are printed in bold letters:

---

When you go through the rest of the pages you are bound to see an official announcement about the death sentence passed on so many “anarchists”, which invariably means revolutionary, especially members or suspected members and sympathizers of the EFFR. In case you have been wondering how the word anarchist can be used to define Marxist-Leninists, you are in for a great surprise — you see, these “gifted and blessed” pseudo-Marxists have defined the scientific definition of anarchism is wrong — so they have you understand that Marxists-Leninists.

And lately they are using the slogan “Progressives unite!” We are not against progressives. But who are the so-called “progressives”? How are they to be united? These cunning gentlemen and their associates do not want to talk about the class nature of “progressive” and the need to appeal to the masses. They have their own way of looking at things; and the masses have their own.

All in all, it adds up to is that these fascists and their intellectual hirelings have been spreading lies whatever the cause of the Ethiopian masses:

---

The junta’s newspapers are good in one aspect only: as teachers by negative example!
Junta Intensifies Propaganda Against Youth

The fascist military junta and its cohorts have in recent days stepped up their campaign to turn the nation against the ESN. They have even gone so far as to say that they are not just fighting to stop the liberation forces, but to bring about a “counter-revolutionary” force.

What are the real facts of the heroic and militant Ethiopian Student Movement? What is behind all these recent slanders?

As a Chinese saying goes, "A thousand lines written in ink cannot hide a single fact written in blood." The ESN has shown the world one such episode. It is a history of continuous struggle — their fight against all forces of reaction. Under the former rule of Haile Selassie, not only were students butcheted and imprisoned but were also victims of countless lies and vilifications. Students were accused of being "foreign agents," of trying to "split" the country, of being "enemies" of the people that must be "eliminated," etc. All these, because the Ethiopian students stood firm for the cause of the emancipation of their peoples with zeal and determination they fought and continue to fight for this worthy and just cause. This was not out of course to the liking of their oppressors and exploiters; that is why, therefore, that they time and again attempted to destroy the movement — at home and abroad — and discredit it in the eyes of the people. But all this came to naught.

The ESN continued to develop in depth and breadth. The number of the main forces in the February 1974 revolutionary upsurge that later came under the leadership of Haile Selassie into the garbage heap of history.

Since the junta usurped power from the popular masses in September 1974, it has felt discomfort at the existence of the ESN. Understandably so, for the ESN has not been, and is not, the front of a brutal fascist regime, bent on nothing but extermination and destruction. The ESN is a movement of students and intellectuals, dedicated to the liberation of the Ethiopian people. It is a movement of the masses, fought by the masses, and directed by the masses in their fight for a new Ethiopia, for a socialist Ethiopia.

The junta’s attacks on the ESN are a desperate attempt to stop the growth of the student movement and to suppress its revolutionary activities. The ESN is the voice of the people, the voice of the oppressed, the voice of the masses.

Famine Escalating in Ethiopia

Not long ago — in fact, right after the regime took power — the junta’s propaganda machine had it that “farm output has increased two-fold and the income of peasants has grown likewise.” Such was a lead story in Tegratu, the junta’s daily newspaper.

All of a sudden, on January 7th, its media takes an all round turn and tells of famine which is only common knowledge to everybody. That the danger of famine is evident! The Washington Post (January 15) thus picks up the story: “Since mid-December, the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has been ringing its alarm loudly, warning that as many as 700,000 people in Wolof and Tigré provinces face famine…” A ministry of Agriculture is also said to have said that “Ethiopia faces an overall grain deficit of up to 400,000 tons this year due to a wide variety of problems ranging from scattered pockets of crop failure to difficulties stemming from land reform.” Ethiopian relief officials in September are also reported to “estimate that they may have to feed 250,000 people just in the scattered pockets of the country they have already discovered across northern Wolof province alone.”

Similar warnings are being made about certain areas in Gofan and the south-eastern areas.

The junta has given strict orders prohibiting ‘discussions’ of the famine from moving out of their villages of residence adding that “they will be supplied with millions of dollars on military hardware.

As to the junta, no confidence than we had on its predecessor we can enter as its main preoccupation rests on representing the masses through fascist white terror which, in turn, leads to demanding hundreds of millions of dollars on military hardware.

"You Are the Very Person We Are Waiting For!"
Open Letter to Generalismo Teferi

The letter reprinted below has been widely distributed as one more attempt by members of the Ethiopian Students Union in Holland, at exposing the atrocities of the Ethiopian fascist junta.

General Teferi Benti, Provisional Military Government, F. D. Box 2707, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

January 3, 1977

General Teferi Benti, Provisional Military Government, F. D. Box 2707, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

We, members of the Ethiopian Students' Union in Holland, take the full liberty to come out in the open and condemn your notorious, fascist and lottering regime that is relentlessly and bloodthirstily and arbitrary mass arrests against the forces of democracy and innocent civilians.

The reign of terror that your regime is perpetuated in the hands of our people. The crimes you committed, the series of executions that you carried out against the forces of democracy and revolution, the systematic mass executions and mass arrests of the student youth, the secret executions of arrested civilians, the non-reporting to the fates of innocent civilians in all but unreported. Even smaller respectable people have the self-respect but you, the head of this state, not only allow public opinion, but shock to hear the executions you carry out, but even for yourself.

You seem to have decided to block by sheer force the locomotive of Ethiopia's history, the Ethiopian revolution, whose true engine is the EPRDF and its attempts. Khadafi had carried out a massacre of workers in Lebanon just ten months ago. Khadafi had also sent a series of soldiers to the revolutionary students in Grenada, the country of his allies. The Ethiopian junta's attempts to block the EPRDF had also amounted to blockading. In recent history, the notorious imperialism of the policies of the EPRDF in South Africa killed hundreds and jailed a number of political prisoners, and had taken the lives of those who stopped that. You, Khadafi, should not be attempted to stop that. Our students in Grenada, the country of our allies, the United States, should not be stopped at all. You have shown your determination to stay on the throne of that you inherited from the colonialists. The revolutionary people of EPRDF will take care of you. The people who have been victims of their policies and are prevented to be specifically in the Fourth May Revolution. Your soldiers on the country, as in Ethiopia, the USA and all here.

The heroic Ethiopians and Eritrean peoples who have overthrown the half a century of colonial rule on those who control a two years of freedom, bringing, according to recent womenen, have known more their suffering for years. They have already been facing heavy losses in their forces. Your soldiers are deserted and joining the revolution on mass.

You have no support from any oppressed social force. You have no international support to continue the struggle. The people of Ethiopia and the local support and curiosity detachment of the local support by exposing the grandeur of your sympathy, who are committing. We are proud to inform you. Your kind for your acts of genocide and destructions, the atrocity you have overthrown the half a century of colonial rule on those who control a two years of freedom, bringing, according to recent womenen, have known more their suffering for years. They have already been facing heavy losses in their forces. Your soldiers are deserted and joining the revolution on mass.

You may kill revolutionaries, but you can never, we repeat NEVER, kill the revolution.

Ethiopian Students' Union in Holland -- Member of the Ethiopian Student Union in Europe (WESP)
The Struggle--in Poems

Following are two Amharic poems that Forward received from its readers recently. Readers are invited to send in poems for this column either in English or in Amharic or in any other Ethiopian language.

All inquiries, comments, and/or suggestions may be sent to:

FORWARD
P. O. Box 5372
Madison, WI 53705

Member Unions of WAFES:

Ethiopian Students Union in Europe (ESUE)
Regional Union of Ethiopian Students in the Middle-east & N. Africa (RUESMENA)
Ethiopian Students Union in East Africa (ESUEA)
Ethiopian Students Union in North America (ESUNA)
World-Wide Ethiopian Women Study Group (WWEWSG)

READ

ABYOT

information bulletin
of the ethiopian peoples' revolutionary army party

AND

STRUGGLE

Journal of the
World-wide Federation of Ethiopian Students