

# FORWARD!

Newsletter of the World Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students

vol. I, no.4

February 1977

### Mengistu Crowns Himself Fascist Head

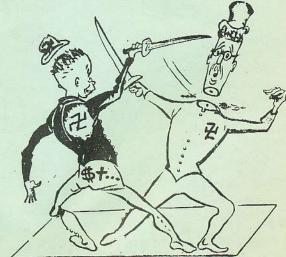
## DESPITE LIMITLESS REPRESSION AND DEMAGOGY, THE STRUGGLE ADVANCES

What happened on February 3 on the Palace grounds in Addis Ababa is not any thing out of the ordinary. If there is any thing surprising about it at all, it must be the reason why it took so long for to happen.

In our January issue of Forward we had in fact indicated that such an eventuality was not too far from the Junta's door steps. In commenting about the "reorganization proclamation", we wrote: "This proclamation is an attempt to cover up the state of desperation (that the junta is in) and to hoodwink the people into believing that there is a 'collective' leadership, that the derg is a 'democratic' body, etc.", adding that "attempted coups and counter-coups, rumours of impending coups, are not unusual these days." And we were perfectly right! The ink on which the "reogrganization" plan was written did not even get to dry before this was shown to be the case. And on February 3, the number one fascist chopped off a few of his buddies' heads and emerged as the sol dictator.

That this blood-thirsty gangster has long been preparing for such an undertaking was also common knowledge in Ethiopia. A clandestine paper called "Oppressed Soldier", one of the papers published by oppressed and conscious members of the armed forces, had a little more than three months ago exposed Mengistu's secret plan by printing a letter that the fascist wrote to his allies.

Be that as it may. What exactly happened on February 3? Leaving aside the ludicruous charges and bizzare pronouncements by the now self-acclaimed fascist dictator about what happened on this day, we have been able to put the following together based upon various letter reports and newspaper accounts.



THE GAME OF FASCISTS.

Friends yesterday; at each other's throat today!
WHO IS NEXT?

- 1. Ever since it usurped power, the junta has been beset with contradictions and factional divisions within its ranks. At the forefront of the causes for such division has been differences on how best to curb the forward march of the revolution and hence on how best to "liquidate" its vanguard, the EPRP.
- 2. Towards the end of November, Mengistu secretly gathered 20 of his secret allies and collaborators from around the country and agreed on a blue-brint for destroying his adversaries within the derg with a primary concern for acquiring a totally free-hand for launching an all-out "extermination" campgain against all revolutionary forces.
- 3. The "reorganization" proclamation, which attempted to distribute power among the top brass of the derg, interefered in his plan as it temporarily diminished his power. So, "the sooner the better" was the clue from this "collective" (sic!) action!
- 4. On February 3, therefore, he manipulated the top echelon of the derg against which his planned coup was to be directed and got them to assemble for an extraordinary meeting. After a few exchanges on proposed plans for continuing the repression against all opposition forces he execused himself under the pretext of receiving a telephone call. No sooner than he left the hall, the others found themselves in front of a firing squad led by Mengistu's close collaborator and head of intelligence, Colonel Daniel. They were caught by surprise and an attempt by a "loyal" member who happened to be at the scene could only take the lives of three of Mengistu's allies. The coup, however, was a clean success for it rolled off the heads of all those against whom it was planned. A select group of the "Flame Brigade", Mengistu's body-guard, was at hand around the palace in case unforseen troubles flare up. (The notorious social-fascist, Senay Like, was also caught in the fire. What could he have been doing there?

  Was he perhaps expressing "critical support" again?)
  - demonstration of "success". Kebele leaders passed the word that absence from the rally would be taken as being in opposition and that "strict revolutionary measures" (meaning facing the death squad!) would follow on all absentees. In the rally seemingly impromptu speeches and vows of determination were made, primarily by the hangman himself.

Do I look

PRODUE HAILE FIRM

better now?

Since then, the bloodbath that was escalated since September has reached unprecedented proportions. In addition to the "Flame Birgade", special fascist youth squads have been armed to kill at will in schools and on streets.

We need not go into the charges and labels, for they are as ludicruous and ridiculous as they can ever be. Suffice it to say that, as the "Voice of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Workers Union" put it, if at all the charges were correct (i.e. that they were planning to compromise with the EPRP, etc,) then they were at least cleverer fascists in being able to comprehend the strength of the revolutionary forces.

Out of all this, one thing becomes clear: that the fascists and social-fascists are going from the frying pan to the fire!



FORWARD

### Third Anniversary Being Celebrated:

# THE FLAMES OF THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION WILL NEVER BE EXTINGUISHED:

The historic February revolutionary upsurge is now three years old! It was then that the heroic Ethiopian masses "stormed heaven" when their long disgust and anger against feudal and imperialist oppression and exploitation burst in the open! The three-year old famine which caused the death of more than 500,000 peasants and the crisis of the world imperialist system which painfully affected the Ethiopian toiling masses were the immediate causes of that volcanic mass upsurge.

It was this revolutionary mass movement that ushered in the New Democratic Revolution in Ethiopia which is still advancing victoriously under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist vanguard, the EPRP, and its armed wing, the EPRA.

February was a period in the long history of the class struggle in Ethiopia when the popular masses, fighting with great tenacity, devotion and sacrifices evolved new and advanced methods of struggle which were varied and rich in content. The proletariat used its privileged arm, the general strike, resorted to factory occupations, street fighting and demonstrations, etc.; peasants started armed siezure of their land, set fire to grain crops, siezed grain and property of land lords chasing them and representatives of the feudobourgeois regime to the urban areas. Students, teachers, taxi-drivers, the urban poor, people from oppressed nations and religions, oppressed women, etc. staged well-coordinated mammoth demonstrations. Rank and file soldiers mut-inied every where, took over barracks, and arrested their senior officers. Peasant committees, soldiers' committees, popular tribunals, etc. were set up to exercise popular power.

In their tens of thousands, the masses went down in the streets with revolutionary and democratic slogans. They chanted the unity of the oppressed. They demanded freedom of speech, of the press and of organization; they called for land-to-the-tiller and for an end to religious, national, and sex inequality. The conscious and militant masses demanded the downfall of the autocracy and the establishment of a popular

These legitimate aspirations of the Ethiopian masses were, however, frustrated when its class enemies,

taking advantage of the absence of a proletarian vanguard which could come into the open and lead them into seizing state power, regrouped and set up a "provisional military government" which has since then been unleashing the most barbaric fascistic repression and doubledealing -- political deception and demagogy of the Hitler type to cover up its truely fascistic nature.

Since then, a new era of struggle and sacrifice has been opened. Many lessons have been learned; many battles have been fought. Thousands of martyrs have shed their blood for the new Ethiopia that is sure to be built. The vanguard of the Ethiopian proletariat, the EPRP, which was born in struggle, has proven its undisputed leadership of the revolution; the multi-national masses have espoused its program and are chanting and struggling for its revolutionary slogans.

The declaration of its peoples' army, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Army (EPRA), in August 1976 has taken the New Democratic Revolution into its inevitable and decisive course. The main force of the Ethiopian revolution, the peasantry, has embraced it and is rallying behind it. The Ethiopian peoples have their own army now. And nothing, no force whatsoever, can ride on their backs as before. They have now become their own liberators!!

Revolution progresses by giving rise to a strong counter-revolution. As Lenin pointed out, "it compels the enemy to resort to more and more extreme and barbaric measures of defence and in this way devises ever more powerful means of attack." (Lenin, The Moscow Insurrection.)

It is precisely this that we see in today's Ethiopia. In a futile attempt at thwarting the forward march of the revolution and thereby save the fast crumbling semifeudal, semi-colonial system, if only under a different guise, the fascist gangsters led by a blood-thirsty tyrant, Mengistu Hailemariam, have turned the whole country into a blood-bath hitherto unprecedented in the country's history. And international forces of reaction and opportunism of all makes and colours are assisting and collaborating in this despicable endeavor.

But, whatever the sacrifices and the upturns and downturns that may be experienced in this revolutionary process, the Ethiopian masses enlightened and led by their proletarian vanguard, the EPRP, and relying on its armed wing, the EPRA will carry on the New Democratic Revolution through to the end and create a new, free, prosperous and socialist Ethiopia. This has been the irresistible trend in Ethiopian society since the historic February upsurge and no force, however fascistic and/or deceptive it might be and under whatever guise and colour it might appear and reappear would stop this trend for long.

This third third anniversary is being celebrated in many parts of the world by member unions of WWFES and other democratic Ethiopians. Forums, press statements, public rallies, etc. have been and will continue to be made to recount the unprecedented events of February and what has transpired since then.

But, for the great masses of the Ethiopian peoples such celebrations are unthinkable, for they live under the most fascistic repression of a military junta, deprived of all democratic rights and political liberties. It won't, however, be too long before this situation is reversed!

FORWARD UNDER THE BRIGHT RED BANNER OF THE EPRP!!

LONG LIVE THE EPRP AND ITS PEOPLES' ARMY, THE EPRA!!

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!!!

(A chronology of the important events during the February, 1974 Revolution will appear in Struggle, Vol. IV, No. 2)

### member unions in action

The celebration of the third anniversary of the historic February Revolution was the most significant activity of most of the member unions during the month of February. Most of the unions and their chapters and study groups through out the world have in one way or another celebrated this historic episode in the history of the class struggle in Ethiopian society, or are preparing to do so.

# The Canadian Chapter of ESUNA celebrated the event in Toronto on February 18. According to PCDN, official organ of CPC(M-L), the "event provided an excellent opportunity for the Canadian working class and people to learn about the excellent revolutionary situation in Ethiopia."

# ESUE's member union, the
Ethiopian Students Union in
the Soviet Union held its 13th
annual congress from Jan. 30 to
Feb. 2. The Congress was held
in a hitherto unpredented spirit
of revolutionary victory despite
cheap intrigues and manoeuvers by
agents of the fascist derg.

# Ethiopian Students Union in Sweden is organizing a variety of activities to celebrate the event on March 4. #ESUNA and EWSGNA chapters throughout continental United States have also Celebrated the event. In addition three mid-year congresses are planned to be held in March and April to jointly celebrate the February upsurge and the Fifth anniversary of the formation of the EPRP: in Boston from March 17-19; in Dayton, Ohio from April 8-10; and in San Fransisco from April 15-17.

#Similar celebrations have either been made or will shortly be made in such countries as Holland, W. Germany, France, Great Britain, Switzerland, Greece, Italy, Egypt, the Sudan, Kenya, etc.

Revolutionary and democratic organizations, M-L parties and groups, and liberation movements have been invited to express their solidarity to the Ethiopian peoples during these events.

## DOWN WITH ALL REVISIONIST DISTORTIONS AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION:

The relentless struggle of the Ethiopian masses led by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party (EPRP) against feudalism, imperialism, and fascism has now become a common knowledge, thanks to the resolute efforts of the EPRP and its active supporters to familiarize the progressive world of the state of affairs in Ethiopia. In the Ethiopian arena a classic wave of struggle between the forces of revolution and the forces of reaction are clearly delineated leaving no room for any one to wobble as to whom to support. Supporters as well as enemies of the revolution have clearly defined boundaries to choose sides from.

At innumerable occasions, the EPRP, Ethiopian students unions operating under the umprella of the World-Wide Federation of Ethiopian Students (WWFES), and some progressive international organizations have laid bare the fascistic and sadistic attrocities committed and being committed by the military gangsters misruling Ethiopia. Despite such unfailing efforts, however, we have noted that some individuals, parties and publications have thrown their support behind the attrocities of the junta. We certainly do not expect any support in our struggle against an imperialistsponsored junta from imperialist quarters. If at all they have condemned the criminal acts of the junta, we know it is a mere lip service without which we can do. However, it is disheartening to note international workers solidarity being succumbed to exigencies of trade, diplomatic niceties such as non-interference, personal indebtedness and outright bribery. Some "communist" papers, individuals, and governments have louded the killings of hundreds of progressive workers, students and other intellectuals, arbitrary arrests of thousands others at worst, and turned deaf ears at best. Silence in such circumstances is inexcusable and deserves condemnation.

The junta has massacred any progressive it can lay its fangs on; it has thrown thousands into the most inhuman dungeons. Arbitrary arrest, search and seizure, beating and torture are the fate of any body suspected of being EPRP sympathizer. Such being the state of affairs, the question pivots on this central issue: one either supports the EPRP and other progressive forces and is a friend of the Ethiopian masses or one supports the junta and is a sworn enemy of the Ethiopian masses. The situation is so crystal clear that we can easily categorize friends and foes by their alliance with the EPRP or the junta.

One such foe is John Gritten, editor of the "Morning Star" official organ of the Communist Party of Great Britain. To our knowledge, the Party has not disclaimed the serious distortions and insulting remarks of gentleman Gritten. Gritten who attended the "Second Anniversary of the Revolution", organized by the fascist junta, on an expense-paid invitation has gone to great trouble to reciprocate the lavish hospitality accorded to him by misreporting as to what is fairing in Ethiopia. He alleges to have confirmed the support the junta enjoys among the workers and peasants when he saw a big peasant demonstration in support of the junta. If he had gone down from the special podium assigned to him and condenscended as to talk to those "peasants", his hospitalityblinded senses could have easily discovered that those were none other than the notorious "Flame Division" members -- a kind of storm troopers of the Hitlerite type established by the junta. Just as a racist can assume a revolutionary garb so can a police pass in a peasant outfit. Gritten's thinly disguised racist remarks, "as non-European , we have no right to self-initiated and self-created political and mass organizations," shows how much he has fallen a prey to his colonialist forefathers' maxim: Black people should be subjected to political tutelage. This remark was one amongst many examples of a racist masquerading in a revolutionary rhetoric. Gritten's stupid and racist remarks provide good lessons by negative example about the extent to which modern revisionism has degenerated

as to be in such a direct service to counter-revolution.

It is worth noting further that Gritten has no word about the thousands of students, workers and peasants massacred, the thousands that have been herded in the most inhuman jails, the daily violations of every conceivable human rights by the junta's political police. In fact, Addis Ababa has not been unrenouned for blinding journalists with the glamour of its teeming brothels from the days of Haile Selassie.

One other publication we have exhausted our patience with is that piece of trash undeservedly carrying the glorious name of "Africa Journal" published in London. Though those African emigrés have to eat and "enjoy" their fanciful cars, falsifications and distortions about revolutionary struggles just to boost sales and avoid being banned is down right betrayal of Africa. We warn those emigrés writing on Africa from Tottenham Court Road in London that singing to the tune of anti-revolution in Africa will in the long-run bring their own doom.

The distorted analysis and outright condemnation of revolutionary forces in favour of the Junta made over Radio
Moscow by a certain Ivanov, coupled with occasional echoes of the Junta's fascist propaganda by such soviet publications as "New Times," etc., have become a stab in the back, coming from persons of a country that had once been a cradle of socialism. The uncalled for lauding and pernicious statements by Ivanov and his likes are good examples of the extent to which Lenin's and Stalin's country has been thrown into the quagmire of modern revisionism. For it is the same as saying Marxism-Leninism to hell to argue that a military junta, and a fascistic one at that, is leading a peoples' revolution!

The revisionist stands of Ivanov and his likes was equally echoed by the "World Marxist Review" published in Prague. In its July, 1976 issue, it devoted more than two pages to an interview of a junta member, Major Birhanu Bayeh. Together with the Major the Review agreed that the junta was leading a peoples' revolution. Labelling the seizure of land by the peasants and "nationalization" of some industries

and services as a generous act by the fascist and imperialist stooge junta is a complete denial of the hard-won victories of the masses on whom the Review doesn't seem to have much faith in. (Note: For a more detailed refutation of the fascist demagogy published in the Review, please read Struggle, Vol. Iv, No. 2)

We welcome, in fact kindly call for, the support of all democratic and progressive organizations, parties, publications, individuals, etc., in our struggle against a fascist junta bent on decimating revolutionary forces in Ethiopia. When a doubt creeps in we are most ready to supply the necessary explanations. But we will not flinch for a moment from fighting back any person, party, etc. who/which engages in the infamous and counterrevolutionary act of sabotaging our revolution. This we owe it to ourselves and the world revolutionary movement.

DOWN WITH REVISIONIST DISTORTIONS!
THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WILL TRIUMPH
UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE EPRP!!!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* What is now happening to Marx's theory has, in the course of history, happened repeatedly to the theories of revolutionary thinkers and leaders of oppressed classes fighting for emancipation. During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes constantly hounded them, received their theories with the most savage malice, the most furious hatred and the most unscrupulous campaigns of lies and slander. After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonise them, so to say, and to hallow their names to a certain extent for the "consolation" of the oppressed classes and with the object of duping the latter, while at the same time robbing the revolutionary theory of its substance, blunting its revolutionary edge and vulgarising it.

Lenin, State and Revolution.

The fight against imperialism is a sham and humbug unless it is inseparably bound up with the fight against opportunism.

### UNMASKING EDU'S "ANTI-FASCIST" AND THE

JUNTA'S "ANTI-FEUDAL" COVERS

Various forces are at work in Ethiopia today to "liquidate" the New Democratic Revolution being led by the EPRP. The foremost enemies of the Ethiopian people are the fascist military clique and its revisionist intellectual bootlickers currently serving the direct interests of feudalism, imperialism, and bureaucratic capitalism. The junta's active repression of the masses in general and democratic and revolutionary forces in particular has helped formerly disgraced and overthrown aristocratic and feudalist elements to regroup in an attempt to stage a come-back. One such organization is the self-styled "EDU" which operates from London.

Looking through their propaganda publications, the military junta and the EDU seem to be fundamentally opposed to one another. Like the thief crying stop thief, they hurl insults at one another in a vain attempt to hide their dirty schemes. Hence for the so-called EDU, the junta is "desecrating the Ethiopian character," "too radical", "anti-religion", etc. Angry, it seems, by the stupidity of its class brothers for being feeble-minded enough to take it for its words, the junta occasionally calls them counter-revolutionaries, etc.

Beyond the level of appearance, however, the difference between the junta and the EDU is not one between two artagonistic classes, but a power struggle between ruling factions with tactical differences on how best to preserve the rule of feudalism, imperialism, and bureaucratic capitalism in Ethiopia. The so-called EDU is composed of former notorious big landlords and aristocrats who lost the control of the state apparatus to the bureaucratic bourgeois wing of the ruling classes as now represented by the junta and the social-facist clique at its service. Hence if in pre-February 1974 Ethiopia state power was under the control of the aristocracy at the head of whom was autocrat Haile Selassie, it is now under the control of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie at the head of whom is the fascist military junta headed by the CIA-groomed and extravagantly demagogic Mengistu Haile Mariam. In the former as in the latter, the state serves the direct interests of feudalism, imperialism and bureaucratic capitalism, in no uncertain terms pointed out that against which the New Democratic Revolution led by the EPRP is directed. And it it with fascists (who claim to be

A quick glance at the propaganda publications of the EDU indicates to us where their real difference with the military junta lies. Having in mind its age-old experience in intrigues and robbery, the EDU accuses the junta for not having the necessary experience in running the country, of lacking "management expertise", etc. And as if the ruthless exploitation of workers and peasants under the junta is not evident enough, the EDU "accuses" the junta of encouraging "indiscipline, inefficiency and inattention in the factories and farms" and for not doing away with what they call the "timewasting and indolent ways" of the masses (-- referring of course to their way of life!). Of course, in order to baffle people they talk of their "concern" for the "democratic rights of the people" as if the Ethiopian people have not suffered enough under their dark rule for so long!

But for us as well as the downtrodden Ethiopian masses things must be clear. And they are. We are fighting under the leadership of the EPRP against the feudal, comprador and bureaucratic bourgeois classes who are tied to imperialism and who are our inseparable enemies.

Hence, neither the "socialist" mask of the junta nor the "democratic" mask of the EDU should fool us. They haven't and they wouldn't! The contradiction that exists between the two is only one within the enemy camp and hence only a temporary phenomenon.

This is precisely why the EPRP has it "refuses to make a common front be is this revolution that both are working anti-feudal) or with feudalists (who claim to be anti-fascist)." (Abyot, #4, p.7)

As we have consistently pointed out in the pages of this Newsletter and elsewhere, it must be expected that as the revolution grows in strength the two would patch up their differences in order to "liquidate" the revolution. In fact there are recent indications that the two are making secret deals despite their respective rhetoric to the contrary.

US-led imperialism, in its desperate attempt to subvert the struggle of the people, also gives support not only to the junta but also to the EDU. This, of course, should not be surprising. Seeing the imminent downfall of the junta, imperialism is trying to use these feudal bandits in order to stage a come-back, if only under a different guise. In fact the recent news flurries in the various bourgeois press about the "successes" of these warlords in and around the Humera region is a clear indication of imperialist plans to use these forces for the criminal purpose of preserving its domination.

Whilst concentrating our attack against the fascist military junta and its intellectual mentors, we must continue our fight against these feudal bandits and their organization called the "EDU".

It is also in this light that we view the recent propaganda war between the junta and certain bordering countries, the so-called "mini-summit" held in Khartoum where Numeiry, Sadat and Assad are reported to have discussed "the security of the Red Sea", as well as the just completed shuffle of the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Talcott Seelye, who secretly visited both Addis Ababa and Khartoum during this "mini-summit". Not surprisingly, EDU's leading representatives were also reported to have been around at the same time.

The panic in the enemy camp, be it the crisis within the junta that was temporarily resolved by chopping off a few heads within its own ranks or the propaganda skirimishes, summits and diplomatic shuffles, etc. are the result of, and only of, the successful struggle of the Ethiopian peoples and their vanguard, the EPRP. And so long as the revolutionary and democratic forces continue to forge their unity and persevere in their armed struggle, maily relying on it, combating all manuoveres and interference and always keeping the initiative in their own hands, victory will certainly be theirs.

### WWFES SOLIDARITY The Southern African Revolution

The panic and desperation of the enemies of the Southern African peoples --i.e. the Zimbabweans, Namibians, and Azanians -- continues to grow by leaps and bounds as can easily be witnessed by the enormous coverage it is given in the imperialist press, the endless pronouncements of concern and settlement proposals, diplomatic manuevores and conferences of all sorts. First was the ill-fated "shuttle diplomacy" by Kissinger; next came the ill-famed and abortive tour by Britain's Richards; then followed the Geneva "conference" and Carter's envoy led by aspiring new black diplomat, Andrew Young.

The reasons behind all of these are clear. For it was Kissinger himself who declared to the whole world that not only was Smith's regime in Zimbabwe incapable of continuing the armed struggle against the ever growing heroism and determination of the patriotic forces but that the situation in the heart of apartheid South Africa itself is growing helpless. Both Richards and Young couldn't help echoing this cruel fact!

Why then the fuss and clamour about "peaceful settlement," "majority rule", "transitional government", "constitutional conference", etc.? Simply stated, this is all meant to defuse the excellent revolutionary situation in Southern Africa; to blunt the armed struggle; and thereby to attempt to strike at a neo-colonial compromise! All this sudden talks and counter-

talks have been and are the result of, and only of, the ever expanding armed and political struggle being successfully waged by the heroic Southern African peoples.

But these desperate maneuvers of U.S.-led imperialism are once again proving incapable of duping the patriotic forces. The opposite is, in fact, being the case.

### Zimbabwe

The present liberation struggle in Zimbabwe had its root in 1891 when Britain colonized the territory through the British South Africa Company. The colonizer, with its habitual cheap diplomatic cleverness and hypocricy, tried to maintain its rule through Ian Smith's government of white settlers. However, the patriotic people of Zimbabwe who long realized the intrigues and manipulations of colonialists heightened their struggle by manifolds and determination.

During last year alone, the guerilla forces, primarily led by ZIPA, have grown ten times in size and are dealing telling blows to the fascist military forces of the settler regime. Its supply links with South Africa are repeatedly being cut; in the first week of February alone about 235 racist troops were killed in the battle field. Panic is haunting the racist state.

U.S.-led imperialism, which has long sought the protection of its interests (the U.S., Great Britain, and South Africa own 90% of the mineral and 80% of the manufacture industries in Zimbabwe!), has started its open diplomatic offensive in an attempt at a "negotiated settlement" that would not upset its economic and political interests. The new approach, characterizing the panic and desperation that the ever expanding armed struggle has created among its ranks and functionaries, is full of incomprehensible and "disinterested"arbiter-type statements such as "the U.S. seeks no special influence," "there is no American plan", etc. But unfortunately

them, the days of such dirty tricks and superficially tastey concerns are long bygone.

### Namibia

In Namibia (South West Africa) the African people have been fighting for their land and freedom since the days the German colonialists set foot in the 19th century. During World War I, after Germany was defeated, the South African regime captured the land, and was later on put under its "mandate" by the League of Nations. However, Verword and his replacement, Vorster openly implemented their notorious apartheid policy in the region despite world-wide condemnations. And contrary to United Nations resolutions to withdraw from the territory, the fascist regime of South Africa continues to exploit and oppress the Namibian masses. And however hard U.S.-imperialism may try to disguise its true nature through hypocrite diplomatic prouncements by "criticizing" the South African Government on the Namibian question, the fact remains that racism, colonialism, and imperialism have one and the same interests and are complementary to each other.

The pressure of a 20,000 strong army of South Africa fighting against Namibian patriotic forces is the protective cover for the imperialist companies such as Bethelehem steel, American Metals, Climax and Phelps, Dodge, etc., all of which are engaged in the exploitation of such Namibian resources as copper, vanadium, diamonds, uranium, etc.

The national liberation struggle of the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, is scoring victories after victories and after 10 years of armed struggle a good deal of the land and people have already been liberated.

#### Azania

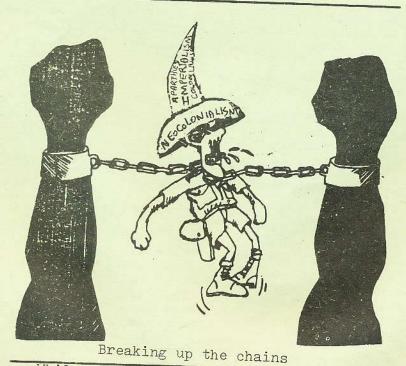
The anti-imperialist, antiapartheid, and anti-colonial struggle
is likewise intensifying in the homeland of apartheid itself. Sixteen
years after the Sharpeville Massacre,
the heroic struggle of the Azanian
masses has once again gained an ever
growing momentum. The Soweto uprising
and the ensuing massacre last June
have sent imperialists of all sorts
and their puppets and agents shivering.
The Soweto uprisings, which left over
150 dead and countless others injured
and/or imprisoned, illustrate plainly

that the Azanian revolution has began its decisive course. For despite the fascistic and massive arrests, detentions, trials, executions, etc. that the Vorster regime uses against the masses, a new mood of defiance, protest, and armed confrontations have become the rule rather than the exception. Last June and in subsequent months the South African press and that of its allies tried to reduce the genuinely anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, and anti-apartheid struggle to simple matters of school issues at best and to a "race war" atworst in the dirty attempt of whipping up public support for possible U.S. intervention in the event the uprising goes out of hand.

All those who fight for freedom and democracy have experienced that imperialism is the arch defender of colonialism, neocolonialism, inspirer of racism as well as the arch gendarme of international reaction, and that, therefore, it will continue its agressions as long as it exists. The national liberation forces in Southern Africa have realized this and have taken their destiny into their own hands.

Whatever methods the racist regimes in Southern Africa or their defender, U.S. imperialism, or any other force of reaction for that matter, may try to use to curb the just liberation struggle of the Southern African masses will certainly be met with utter defeat.

Victory is certain so long as the masses and their patriotic vanguards unite and persevere in armed struggle, cautiously combat all and every interference in their internal affairs, and keep the initiative in their own hands. It will be another sad story if a struggle carried for so long and paid with so much dear blood were to end up with a neo-colonial compromise of any sort. It is, therefore, of fundamental importance to grasp the need for undertaking a thorough-going liberation struggle and this requires, among other things, cautiously watching all wolves in sheep's clothing and keeping the initiative in one's own hands.



While watching all wolves in sheep's clothing!

#### THE STORY OF A CONSCRIPTING "CADRE"

The so-called "Peoples (sic!) Provisional Organizing Office," if its all-out attempt to conscript(!) workers into their party which may soon be proclaimed by Grazziani Mengistu as a "proletarian party" -- don't split your sides laughing yet as more bizarrely declarations than this may soon follow -- sent a high-ranking "cadre" to a certain factory. The manager of the factory, a former bureaucrat lately christianed "cadre" of the "revolution", welcomed him and after the personal files of would-be conscripts were carefully reviewed, a worker was brought in for the interview. After a brief introduction about the purposes of the conscription, the interview went as follows:

"Do you love your country?" "Why don't I?" "But, would you do every thing for your country?" "But, things like what?" "Such as putting the interests of Ethiopia above every thing else?"
"Is that all?" "Believing and making others believe that every one in Ethiopia has equal rights." "Who, for example?" "Workers and employers." "What next?"(growing suspicious.) "Third, avoiding participation in and informing all worker strike and slowdown plans & actions." "And then what?" (Being sure of what he suspected.) "Not participating in demonstrations unless called for by the government."
"Go ahead." (expecting what will follow.) "Supporting the suppression and execution of anti-government workers." "Sixth?" "Suspecting every one for anti-government activities.' "Seventh?" "Even your own wife!" "What? my own wife?" have been influenced by "yes, she may anarchists?" "Eighth?" "And your children." "But, why them?" (Just to make him feel at ease) "Because, as a result of the influence of the anarchists, the whole Ethiopian Student Movement has turned to be a fascist youth movement. All students, except a few who hold our ID cards, are now the enemies of our revolution. " Oh, is that so?" "Where are we? yes, ninth: daring to use the arms to be passed out to you against all suspected sympathizers or members of the "I think you don't have to tell me the tenth or the 11th! I understand what is expected of me." (Having decided what to do.) "Do you then accept membership?" All of a sudden, the worker bursted in anger and said, "You would rather get me executed than getting me to change into my opposite." (He then left the "high-ranking cadre" alone, but only to read in the next mornings paper that his interviewer has gotten into trouble.



by himself?

### Struggle-- in Poems

Following are two 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.

/ NCP5/

שתהגדותהג

/h. n./

ያ ሚሻም ቱ ኢተ የጽያ ወሊቱ ቃባማ ሲቲ ሀገደዲና ክርስ ታና አስለማ አሕአፖ ደላቱ ወሊቱ ቃባማ አሕአሥያ ወደገ ፈገችራቱ ዲማ፡፡ ፕሪ ሲማጽኮ ከገሲውን ቱርስት፣ ወለገቦዳገ ማለ የሙ ሄንኩፋ ኮ፡፡ ሀ ቴላጎ አባቱ አሕአሀገ፣ ሚሻም ቱና አባቱ አሕአሠገ፣ ማራያ ማርክሲፍ ሌኒኒገ ማዳኒ ሚሻ በለሱዳፍይ ከአኒ፡፡

አሕአፖን ኤን ኤፋ ባሄ ተራራ አሕአሠን ኩኖ ኮጵፊራ ቤጓኝ ጀልቃቤ ከንጓቡ ባንዲራ ኬባ ደርበ ጓማ ዲመክራሲ ሀራ በቫሌዚማኝ ከንሀጢሁ ከራ:: ኬሙኒዚሜ ኝ ከራንስ ፋንትራ::

ው የተመሰው ነው ተመሰው ነው የተመሰው ነው የተመሰው ነው የተመሰው ነው።

ከጉ ሲ ወጂጉ የቀ ከጉፋዉሱ ከጉ ሲጋር ጋሪ ዲራ ከጉበሌሱ በጉጓፍ ፋሺስ የታ ከጉቢያ ኖቸሱ:: አሕአሠ ማሌ ኤኾያንታሲሱ::

ወለሱማ ፊዓ ሜራ ወራ ብንዓ ቀለ ቀለሴ አፋ ከንብሴ ኤሕአ፲ ቭ ከን ታራሴሱ: : አሕአሠን አንስዓቱ፤ አችት ሰን 24 ተ: : ፊውሌ ኤም ፔሪ ያለዚጫ ሀብኒ ካን 2 ተ ሩን ትራ ቲ ዲጣ ትትቤን ያነኝረ የ እስ ሀይሉ ፊሳ ታእን ማሉ ገረ::

### ABOUT THOSE

LITTLE FACTS:

An open letter to the fascist gang leader, Colonel Mengistu written by the Regional Union of Ethiopian Students in the Middle East and North Africa (RUESMENA) on February 14, 1977, after laying bare the nature of the military fascist dictatorship in general and the February 3 coup by Mengistu in particular, gives the following reminder to the Colonel:

"By way of personal reminder, you would do well to return the money you have taken from the illegal sale of /3675 ... DATE/

የቀጠ ንበሮት የወዲየ ጂንት፣ አይር ወመኖን በኢሕአ፤ ውልደት

/hn. b.m./

አማር ይ አማረድቦ በኢሕአፒ ጜጜሆ:: ወለጓ ይተፈደን በፋቨስት በርት ኤም አማረድቦ ሬርቸኛ ለለፈፕ

ንደደት ኪስሉት ቀረን የጆነ ሰውኖት ጜጓን ሲዲዛፍ የበላበት ግዛት ወልድነ አቀራታንክሎ ደር

በርወጠቱ ውልዎነ ቃነናን በቅጠነ ተእቱም ጎነ ይፈጅነያን ያለብነ ውልም ነ አርቶ ግነ ቢመጥ / ሰውጥ ፋሽስት ሰቪል

ፋሽስት አም ፤ሪ ያለስተ

ደርግም ቀያሬኔ ስምከ በላያን መጎግሥት አኖም የጠፋ ነ ያን በኢሕአ ፲

11七十 አይዎነ ሳይሶ በደርግ ይረ 12257

ሊሊም ቀይ የተፈት ወሰይነ ይከተን ለኬው የከተታ በናን የቼነይ ውለም ደርግ ተያጠፍቦነ ኢጓይ ብሔር ታዲ አድቾችኔ ተያባነነ ከነበሳኔ ተባሳባት ባለነ?

ደምነ አፈሰሰናኔ በመጠነይ ያሴቸናን ትልበነ የውዘናይ አነብናን የትም ፊልፕ የውዘን ነት 4 ሸስት ሰቪል 4 ሸስት እናን አይብ ነት

ቀተሎት ረቮናት ብለ በለን ደርግ ከላቃተለን በርበራከ ቴንዛን ሎ ነም በላን ደግ መረብም አርብመነ ኤ ትም ነ

አማረድናን ፋጠስት ሰቪል ፋጠስት ይቀትልናን::

ከቡ ይከተናን አሕአን

መጠናገ አ**ኖም** ተም ተነያን ሰቫሌ ዝም የምጠ**ነ** ቧናን የቅጠ ንበሮት ከቪናን

ደርግ አታላዩ መጠ በጜጜ ለአወናባጜ አታቢይ አገጜ:: ቡሽ ከረብ ለአፕ ደብ 4ሽበት አወናባጜ በጅረ A70::

ዲመክራሲያ ለውሉምክ በባነ ውልም ቤዘ በትባበየት ይትረክበን ትልበነ መልስከ ቅተሎት እግደኑ ወስዋስ አነብነ::

ለአማርድነ በዝ ቤዘነ ለቻነ በባነ በሎናን ወረበ አርብ ያቡነ:: ባወቶ በማያዘያ የአማረድነይ አልከሼናን ፋሽስት በማርክስ ኡንጌ በተኬተሎት ያጠፋነሃን በወከት::

ኢሕአ፲ የፕ ፲ር ቲ አማግደሃነው አለ አሸም ኢያ ሊሲፕ ኢሳነው ለዜገ ለውፕ ያቴረነው ወገ፡፡ ያለብነ በዝ ይተፈቜናገ ኢሕአ፲ የሌቀ በነብበነ ሜኝገ፡፡

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

FORWARD! P. O. Box 5372 Madison, WI 53705

Member Unions of WWFES:

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)

Account to the contract of the empty petroleum barrels which you stole and sold to a certain Ato Kemal in Harrar while you were a store keeper in the Third Army Division HQs. It is to be recalled that you were prosecuted for theft together with Ato Kemal three years ago in the High Court in Harrar. The case was pending in Court until you recently hushed it down. Elementary integrity would also demand the payment of E\$125 to a certain poor carpenter in Harrar from whom you took a bed for which you never paid."