The latest reports from Ethiopia's Ogaden desert indicate that the Soviet-Cuban backed Ethiopian regime is turning the tide of battle and routing the U.S. backed Somali forces. The U.S. is now crying foul because of the use of Cuban forces and threatening direct involvement if Somalia's territory is invaded.

The truth of the matter is that the two superpowers are heightening their contention for control of the region. The Horn of Africa. The valuable prize is the control of the major oil route to Europe. To win the prize, each superpower seeks to take advantage of any rift between the other's client state and its master. This is clearly evidenced by the switching of masters—Ethiopia from the U.S. to the Soviets, and in Somalia from the Soviets to the U.S.

The war over the Ogaden between Ethiopia and Somalia is a reactionary war between the military juntas and serves the interests of their imperialist masters. It is a war through which the oppressed nationalities of the Ogaden region are being slaughtered and dispersed from their traditional homelands. Anonymity is being created and intensified between the two countries.

The reactionary regimes of Mengistu in Ethiopia and Barre in Somalia, as well as their imperialist sponsors, have a great interest in continuing this war. The two superpowers are using this war to escalate their contention by proxy to establish hegemony in the region.

The Soviets have signed a 20 year friendship agreement with the Ethiopian regime and poured over $1 billion in military equipment, along with 4,000 Cuban mercenary troops into Somalia to help win the war. On the other hand, the U.S. is giving support to Somalia through its reactionary intermediaries in the region—the fascist Shah of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

The reactionary ruling classes of Ethiopia and Somalia are hardly blameless in this war for it serves their interests too. The Ethiopian regime which claims to be "socialist" is racked by internal dissent among the workers and the peasantry due to the passports. This has resulted in an additional war against the regime's own people. The fascist Mengistu regime is using the Somali "invaders" to whip up anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban sentiments. Both claim to be "socialist" but are pursuing the same imperialist goals. The war is being pursued solely by the West.

The proletariat and oppressed nationalities in Ethiopia and Somalia must forge unity and overthrow the Mengistu and Barre regimes. The Soviet and Cuban puppet regimes must be overthrown and new democratic societies must be created.

Long Live the Just Struggles of the Ethiopian and Somali Masses! Supersowers Out of Africa!