

Active solidarity with the Ethiopian people

The experience of the Ethiopian revolution confirms the long standing position of ME'ISONE which stresses the importance of self reliance for any people engaged in the struggle for liberation. But this does not exclude international solidarity and support from world democratic forces. In fact, Ethiopia's progressives are fully aware of the fact that the isolation of the Ethiopian revolution has contributed to its defeat and that the absence of active international solidarity is helping to prolong the sufferings of the people.

Ethiopia's progressives have also learned that such solidarity could not come from soviet "internationalism". The first experience that the Ethiopian peoples ever had with such "internationalism" was after 1977 and what came along with it was defeat, military dictatorship, chauvinism, famine, exile and national disgrace. Drawing the appropriate lessons from this experience, ME'ISONE has stuck even more firmly to its long standing policy of constant non-alignment. It is on this basis that ME'ISONE has been developing its foreign relations during the past years. Regular contacts with democratic and socialist forces, trade unions and militant human rights organizations have helped to gather support for the Ethiopian people's struggle.

But encouraging as it may be, the present level of international solidarity is far from satisfactory. Many friends of Ethiopia are well aware of the horrible conditions that prevail in the country. That "socialist" Ethiopia holds all the unworthy records in the fields of human rights violations, famine, exile and misery is a fact that is recognized by an increasingly important section of the international community. But there is also the other side of the coin. A democratic and patriotic resistance which measures up to the repression does exist in the country. This popular resistance is so widespread and serious that it has no parallel in independent Africa. Unfortunately, this important aspect of the Ethiopian situation has escaped the attention of world progressive forces. This, in our opinion, explain the gap between the condemnation of the repression which is unanimous and the active support given to the democratic struggle in Ethiopia. Not all the democratic forces condemning the dictatorship have taken the next logical step : that of creating support and solidarity committees in order to popularize the aims of the struggle.

The Ethiopian peoples need and indeed deserve such an active and organized solidarity. It is in view of this that we appeal to all friends of Ethiopia and to all democratic and peace loving forces to mobilize massively to support our struggle for peace, democracy, social justice and national independence not only in Ethiopia but also in the emblazed region of the horn of Africa.