

INFORMATIONS

1) ATTEMPTS TO ALIENATE ME'ISONE FROM THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FAILS LAMENTABLY

Since ME'ISONE changed tactics by recalling to clandestine activity several of its militants engaged in legal work, the organization has clearly indicated that its aim in adopting this new method of struggle is to better integrate among the masses so as to make the revolution move forward. Fighting in the vanguard of the popular movement, raising fundamental questions of the revolution, ME'ISONE has won increasing support from the people. This has only increased the disarray of the DERG and the opportunists. During the last three months, different attempts aiming at reducing the influence of the slogans of our organization among the people and at calling for the condemnation of ME'ISONE in different meetings and popular assemblies have failed lamentably.

Let us mention some examples:

In mid-November a General Assembly consisting of the All-Ethiopian Trade Union delegates of peasants' associations from the province of Shoa, as well as delegates of the Kebele Associations of the capital was held in Addis-Abeba. At this meeting, the servants of the DERG systematically opposed the demands of the revolutionaries and tried to call for the condemnation of ME'ISONE, thus disclosing their opportunist and counter-revolutionary nature.

After a 4-day debate, the General Assembly adopted a resolution giving entire support to the claims of ME'ISONE, notably those put forward in its organ, "Voice of the Masses" (no 61). The resolution called for the immediate granting of democratic rights to the masses, without restrictions; the release of all imprisoned progressives, the crushing of the bureaucracy and for the respect of the right to equality of the nationalities. Frightened by these decisions, the opportunists diffused these resolutions in the mass media falsifying them and so proving their fear in the face of an autonomous popular movement.

In December, the General Association of Residents of

Addis-Abeba, in a communique issued on the occasion of the execution of colonel ATNAFU ABATE (ex vice-president of the DERG), called for the immediate granting of unrestricted democratic rights for the masses, insisting on the fact that total democracy would make the revolution advance, set free the revolutionary process, and get the revolution out of the defensive into the offensive. Once more overcome with panic before these decisions, the DERG and the ipportunists presented to the people a communique in which they censored the revolutionary claims.

The broad masses did not limit themselves to resolutions in order to show that the claims put forward by ME'ISONE were revolutionary. During the last three months many popular demonstrations echoing the organization's demands took place throughout the country.

Only to mention a few examples, it suffices to recall the arrival of delegates from peasant organizations from different regions to Addis-Abeba at the end of December to demand the release of imprisoned revolutionaries. In the single province of Shoa, demonstrations with the same claims took place in the districts of Sellalle, Debre Berhane, Hadiya and Kembatta. In the district of Arba Gou Gou, during a meeting, members of the peasant associations called for the expulsion of the present "Provisionary Office for Mass Organizational Affairs" (controled by the opportunists), and their replacement by former cadres who lost their positions.

Furthermore, the DERG is, at the moment, imprisoning certain delegates of the peasant associations because of an important demonstration which took place in the province of Wollega. During the demonstration, the peasants demanded the release of the imprisoned cadres of the "Provisionary Office for Mass Organizational Affairs" (POMOA) and their reintegration so that they be able to continue their revolutionary task of educating and organizing the masses. The underhanded repressive measures of the DERG and its accomplices are concrete proof, to the masses, as to who has betrayed the revolution and which forces are on the people's side.

The working class, the peasantry and the progressive wing of the petty-bourgeoisie are not the only forces

engaged in the fight for democracy. The revolutionary and patriotic wing of the army is engaged in a difficult struggle to wipe out the reactionary military bureaucracy imposed on them by the DERG. It is an undeniable fact that in Eritrea, Harrarge and in the centre of the country progressive soldiers, patriotic officers and members of the people's militia are repressed, imprisoned and tortured at the order of reactionary officers. The only crime of these democratic forces in the army is that of having demanded democratic rights, the respect of democratic rights, the release of imprisoned progressives and the wiping out of reactionary military bureaucracy, in their view responsible for the set-backs suffered by the army. It is clear, however, that no blind repression could halt the influence of revolutionary ideas in the army and that the revolutionary soldiers and patriotic officers will continue their struggle through more direct integration with the masses so as to build a new Ethiopia.

2) THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT HAS MADE PUBLIC ITS PROGRAMME

Since the days of Haile Sellassie, the Ethiopian students' movement has been engaged in an anti-feudal and anti-imperialist struggle full of sacrifices. The revolutionary wing, which remained true to the correct line of the movement, came out of the struggle strengthened, although since February 1974 the reactionaries have done everything possible to use the movement for counter-revolutionary goals.

This revolutionary wing of the students' movement which two years ago strengthened itself by unmasking the opportunists in the youth movement and by organizing the true revolutionaries around its clandestine organ "Abiot Fana", has today taken a memorable step forward by making public its programme. As was to be expected, the DERG and its accomplices have begun to track down and imprison young revolutionaries. Recently a large number of youths suspected of belonging to the Ethiopian Revolutionary Youth Movement were thrown into prison. This campaign undertaken against ERYM by the DERG, and the opportunists, may seem surprising to those who know the organization's

programme. In fact, ERYM is an organization which fights for the realisation of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution, which the DERG pretends to have adopted. During the last two years the organization has sacrificed a large number of its militants in the fight against the reactionaries and "left" opportunists. What then is the object of this repression? The answer is simple: ERYM is fighting with courage and abnegation for the application of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution while the DERG and the opportunists are betraying it.

3) THE ETHIOPIAN WOMEN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT FIGHTS AGAINST REPRESSION

In order to bring the new democratic revolution to a successful end, the establishment of a revolutionary popular front is necessary. It is clear that in this front the revolutionary women of Ethiopia have a preponderant part to play. Conscious of this fact, especially since February 1974, the revolutionary women organized around a clandestine journal "Tagay Ethiopiawit" have made great contributions to the advancement of the revolution in our country.

For one year, the revolutionary women of Ethiopia, organized within the Ethiopian Women Revolutionary Movement, have accelerated their struggle for the victory of the national democratic revolution. The Ethiopian Women Revolutionary Movement, is the first anti-feudal, and anti-imperialist women's organization in Ethiopian history that is playing a leading role in the women's movement. What was the attitude of the DERG and the opportunists towards this organization? Did they, who pretend to have adopted the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution, supported and encouraged the first and the only women's revolutionary movement to help it play its role in the united front? In no way! On the contrary, for the past few months anti-popular forces have begun to track down the women organized within EWRM in Addis Ababa, in the provinces of Shoa, Wollega, Gojjam, etc. One can no longer hide the fact that former women cadres of the Provisional Office for Mass Organizational Affairs (POMOA) women workers,

leaders of women and student associations are thrown into prison or killed in cold blood upon simple suspicion of belonging to or having sympathy for EWRM.

It is clear that the tenacity and courage of the revolutionary women have begun to shake the revolution. Proof of this is the assassination campaigns perpetrated by paid assassins against women cadres, representatives of Kebele associations, students, etc., in Addis Ababa and in the provinces. It is under the same fear that the DERG is taking anti-popular measures against revolutionary women. As the EWRM has clearly indicated, and as it was conformed by the women killed in the fight against reaction, the organization is fighting for the implementation of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution, which the DERG itself adopted! By using repression against genuine revolutionaries, the DERG and the opportunists are increasingly unmasking themselves daily and it is clear that they can not stop the struggle of millions of oppressed people, no matter what the extent of the repression.

4) THE ORGANIZATIONS OF ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR ME'ISONE

During the respective annual congresses held at the end of August, ESUE (Ethiopian Students Union in Europe) and UPESUNA (United Progressive Ethiopian Students Union in North America) once again expressed their unflinching support for ME'ISONE. After supporting the change of tactics operated by ME'ISONE and condemning the repression undertaken by the DERG against the revolutionaries fighting for the implementation of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution, the two organizations undertook actions calling for democratic rights, the respect of the right of equality of the nationalities as well as the wiping out of reactionary bureaucracy. Among the initiatives which frightened the DERG and the opportunists is the simultaneous protest against the repression to which ME'ISONE militants are subjected to. The above mentioned organizations sent delegations to the Ethiopian Embassies in Moscow, Paris, Washington ..etc. to present their claims and their protests. Although the regime answered that it had imprisoned ME'ISONE

militants for "their own safety"(!) and announced their "forthcoming release", the events which have taken place since then show that the quarrels of the DERG and the opportunists were pure mystifications.

In Addis Ababa and elsewhere the people continue the struggle for the release of the imprisoned comrades, through resolutions, communiques and demonstrations. Moreover, several leaders of peasant, workers' and other organizations have been thrown into prison for demanding the "forthcoming release" promised by the DERG, which once again shows that it was all a mere trick.

5) THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY OFFENSIVE CONTINUES

"ME'ISONE struggles for the power of the people, and not to seize power for itself, as some agents of reaction would make believe. But if the government misses this fact and starts taking repressive measures against revolutionaries and patriots, either openly or in secret, this will only add to the problems the country is facing. There will be the danger that the Sudanese and Chilean conditions would be repeated in Ethiopia!" (Voice of the People nr. 61)

These remarks by ME'ISONE during the change of tactics of struggle in August 1977. Since then, some members of ME'ISONE have been assassinated while others are languishing in prison. Those who carried on the struggle under legal conditions have been obliged to resort to clandestine activity because of the repression to which they were subjected to. The repressive measures of the regime have intenssified both openly and secretly. The measures taken by the DERG these last months, its betrayal of the Programme of the National Democratic Revolution, its alliance with the bureaucracy, all these factors make us say that "the country is threatned by a situation similar to that of Chile"; the coming of such a situation increasingly preoccupies all progressives.

What have been the consequences of the imprisonments and assassinations? As we have explained, these processes weaken the unity of the progressive forces grouped around the National Democratic Revolution, sharpen the secondary contradictions and are in opposition to the

slogan " Greater strength for the unity of progressives!" dear to the people. In short, everyone knows today that these measures, by opening the way to the underhanded trickes of the reactionaries, aggravates the difficulties of the revolution and the country.

The country is encircled and agressed by reactionaries in the South, South-east and North. Somalian aggressors are fighting around Harrar and Dire Dawa. In Eritrea the war continues around Massawa and Asmara. In the center of the country, hired assassins released on the order of the DERG assassin between 15 to 20 revolutionaries daily in the city of Addis Ababa alone. The national economy is in a profound crisis, continuously worsening. The reactionary bureaucracy in collaboration with the DERG bears the direct responsibility for this dramatic situation.

While the revolutionaries speak out against the situation, the opportunist cover the sabotage of the civil and military bureaucracy by affirming that "this situation is not surprising since we are in a period of revolution!" Of course, such phenomenas are likely in a state of revolution; but the revolutionaries should not fold their arms, as the DERG and the opportunists would like them to do. They lay bare this reality before the broad masses.

The revolutionaries are aware that this situation can only accelerate the dangers of counter-revolution. Therefore, in order to avoid such a situation that can retard the revolutionary process and end the crisis, genuine progressives propose and struggle for correct solutions. That is what ME'ISONE and other revolutionary forces are doing. The counter-revolutionary violence of the DERG and its accomplices is precisely at variance with the strong and sagacious positions adopted by the authentic progressives.

Whatever the case may be, one thing is certain: as long as democratic rights are not proclaimed, the equality of nationalities not respected, civil and military reactionary bureaucracy not stemmed, the unity of revolutionary forces not consolidated, we shall not get out of the impass and the situation will only worsen. Today the DERG and the opportunists, more bent on con-

solidating their power, are unable to defend the territorial integrity of the country or to continue the revolution. It is not surprising therefore to see them strengthen the reactionary bureaucracy, harass the revolutionaries, and seek to divide and weaken the camp of the revolution. As long as the DERG and the opportunists ignore the people's claims and continue their reactionary policy, the day of the counter-revolution will only be brought nearer, the situation will worsen further and finally result in a Chile-type situation characterized by a total triumph of the counter-revolution. Faced with this situation, the undaunted revolutionaries wave their slogans and continue their fight. Whatever the extent of the reactionary violence may be, whatever the time needed, the Ethiopian masses will carry the banner of the National Democratic Revolution to an ineluctable victory.

6) SHALL WE ESTABLISH THE WORKING CLASS PARTY
ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM OR RAPIDLY
CREATE A "PARTY" FROM SCRATCH?

The Ethiopian revolution shall win final victory only under the leadership of a working class party. In order to edify this party, genuine Marxist-Leninist fight with the slogan: "Let us build the Working class party!" To attain this goal, it is imperative to strengthen the workers' organizations and carry on a democratic ideological struggle within the Marxist-Leninist groups and organizations. When the revolutionaries put forward the slogan "Let us build the working class party!", they are saying in other words that the process should be accelerated. It is for the same reasons that they are fighting for democratic rights.

Why do the DERG and the opportunists put forward the slogan: "Let us build the Working class Party immediately!"? Why does the ruling petty-bourgeoisie, which never stops talking of the necessity of the party, imprison the Marxist-Leninist fighting for the same objective? Above all why does the DERG systematically close its ears to democratic rights so important for the democratic ideological struggle since it is the only means of solving the disputes between the Marxist-Leninist

groups and organizations? The answer is clear. The petty-bourgeois DERG, in alliance with the reactionary bureaucracy and the right-opportunist intellectuals want to impose hastily upon the people a unique anti-marxist, anti-workers and anti-revolutionary party. Taking their cue from the multiple "socialist parties" existing in several Third World countries, the regime wants to create from scratch a party made up of reactionary bureaucrats, petty-bourgeois, opportunist intellectuals and notorious anti-communists. The intrigue of the petty bourgeoisie are clear. The Programme of the National Democratic Revolution stipulates that power be retained by the people under the leadership of the proletarian party. With this in mind, the reactionaries, putting their own personal organization before that of the workers and the people, and seeking to impose an "organization" under their strict control, want to create a "workers' party" as a means of monopolizing political power.

In order to attain their sinister objectives, the reactionaries systematically oppose the proclamation of democratic rights, while the revolutionaries fight for the edification of a true proletarian party and insist on the immediate necessity of democratic rights. The reactionary bureaucracy, the petty-bourgeois DERG and the right-opportunists in advancing the slogan: "Let us build immediately a workers' party!", only want to monopolize political power by proclaiming the party themselves. Usurping political power at the expense of the people means opposing democratic rights avoiding ideological debates and harassing the Marxist-Leninist organizations.

In short, as long as the DERG opposes the recognition of democratic rights, it can not talk of building a workers' party in the same way as the true Marxist-Leninists, for the two concepts are directly opposed, one being revolutionary, the other counter-revolutionary. It is necessary to recall that the reactionary bureaucracy and the petty-bourgeoisie have already tried to monopolize power by carrying the slogan: "provisional People's Government!" ? They were denounced by the true revolutionaries. The same reactionary forces are trying to renew their enterprises by elaborating a new tactic. Opposing the proclamation of democratic rights and at the same time crying "Let us immediately create a Workers' party!" is nothing other than a new "provisional Govt."