

NEWS & VIEWS

"LE'ADDISITU ETHIOPIA"

The Amharic bi-monthly newspaper - Le'Addisitu Ethiopia (towards a New Ethiopia) in its July/August Editorial wrote that the relief assistance should be continued through international relief organizations without ever laying confidence in the Ethiopian military government. The Editorial also emphasized that the irresponsible and anti-democratic nature of the military government shouldn't deter international donors from continuing their relief assistance to the drought victims. So long as donors can reasonably ascertain that their assistance reaches the drought victims, it would be a mistake to withhold their aid in order to manifest their opposition to the policies and actions of the military regime. The Editorial also underlines that all concerned Ethiopians should look into the long-range solution of the famine above and beyond the immediate relief undertaking; it is appropriate and timely to discuss long-lasting political solutions stepping out of the confines of humanitarian sentiments.

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Conflict between Ethiopian Soldiers and Russian
Advisors Reported

Sergeant Alemayehu Fetene, who surrendered to EPLF from Keren (Eritrea), said that an Ethiopian Luitenant, after killing two soviet military officers in Keren on July 25, 1985, committed suicide. According to Sergeant Alemayehu, this event precipitated by a serious on-going contradiction between Ethiopian officers and soldiers on one side, and the arrogant Soviet military advisors on the other.

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The Military Regime was Reminded of its Responsibility

EEC delegation visiting Addis Ababa in July 1985 has seriously reminded Ethiopian military leaders to urgently present a list of priority relief assistance to ensure that the famine victims receive their needs in time in order to make use of the current rains. Whether the military leaders will be up to this responsibility or not remains to be seen; but the fact that they haven't prepared such priority needs in the advent of the rainy season attests to their callousness toward the grave famine situation.

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Hypocrisy and hypocrisy

".... To be self-reliant is our incontestable basic duty; self-reliant means not to be swelled with pomposity but it demands to be expressive in practice. However, there are few who, instead of being self-sufficient, cast their eyes outside for help.... Especially to seek for foreign aid and loan which we believe is incompatible with the direction of the country's effort toward (economic) development is to reinstate the past bondage which we were able to overcome through tremendous sacrifice...." (tr. NE)

These are the spoken words of Mengistu Haile-Mariam in his speech on the Eleventh Revolutionary Day Anniversary rally in Addis Ababa on September 12, 1985. Mengistu's statement, however flamboyant it may sound, is not in unison with the actual foreign policy of his military government which has more than willingly become a satellite state of the

Soviet Union. Mengistu's de facto foreign policy is beyond mere alignment with the Soviet Union; Ethiopia was made to be a client state of the Soviet Union with an outstanding military debt of 2 billion dollars and Soviet advisors have permeated various government bodies.

Therefore, Mengistu's authoritative speech on self-reliance, as hypocritical it was, reveals his inescapable dilemma about securing an economic assistance or loans while concurrently maintaining his political and military dependence on the Soviet Union.

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