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STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MISSION OF ME'ISONE IN THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE SO-CALLED "COMMISSION TO ORGANIZE THE PARTY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA". June 20, 1980

The so-called Commission to Organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWPE) has held its first congress in Addis Abeba from the 16th - 19th June 1980.

The puppet military regime is trying to present this festival of the counter revolution as a "momentous" event and is forcing the people to "joyfully celebrate" the occasion. But the Ethiopian people who have fallen victim to the most ruthless repression and unprecedented famine under the military dictatorship, surly know better than that. They have no reason to rejoice. They expect nothing worthy to come out of this congress for the simple reason that the actors of this macabre show are those very traitors and counter revolutionary scums that have ruined and sold out our country during the last three years.

It is a congress for nothing. Congress or no congress, the military dictatorship will never be able to cope with the countless problems of the country which are mainly of it's own creation. This congress will not help to contain or appease the ever widening opposition. The holding of this congress will in no way put an end to the vicious internal strifes of the rival factions scrambling for the spoils of power.

The COPWPE festival comes at a time when the country is fast drifting into indescribable chaos. As a result of three years of military dictatorship and soviet domination and exploitation, today's Ethiopia is a ruined and ravaged land. The ranks of the progressive and patriotic forces have been ruthlessly decimated. Two million people have left their homeland in order to escape famine and repression in the prison-state of Ethiopia. According to figures given by the regime itself, more than five million Ethiopians are famine-stricken. As a result of the scorched earth tactics pursued by the regime to silence the legitimate struggle of Ethiopia's progressives and oppressed nationalities, more than half of the country's administrative regions are devastated by war.

Judging by the pompous and triumphant propaganda campaign on the "achievements" of the regime that has preceded this congress, it is already clear that these serious problems will not be touched upon during the sittings of the congress. It is also clear that the congress will not result in a strengthening of the dictatorship's hold on the country. The "party" has already and lamentably failed to enlist the support of Ethiopia's progressive and patriotic forces. It has already and completely been exposed as a gang of chauvinists and traitors devoid of any thing democratic or patriotic. The so-called "Party of the

Working People" has already failed to arouse the enthusiasm of Ethiopia's workers and peasants who have suffered most from the regime's policies.

Conscious of all these bitter facts, and for want of anything better, the regime is trying to give a "historical dimension" to this congress by organizing the most extravagant and cynical festival in the history of Addis Abeba. It has been estimated that these celebrations (including free distribution of cakes and Pepsi Cola to all and every child in the city and other fantastic findings) will cost well over 2.5000.000 US \$. Such waste would have at best been dismissed as a macabre joke had it not been for the fact that at the same time millions of Ethiopians were at grips with the most deadly famine in the country's history.

It goes without saying that, ME'ISONE, together with all Ethiopia's patriotic and democratic forces, will ruthlessly fight this commission and the "workers' party" that will come out of it. It will continue the struggle for the recognition of full democratic rights to the Ethiopian people, the creation of a genuine workers' party and for the right to organize other democratic and patriotic parties and the establishment of a free and democratic Ethiopia on the ruins of the present dictatorship and its foreign masters.

HAVE YOU READ OUR MARCH ISSUE ?

The March 1980 issue of "New Ethiopia" contains the full text of the interview given to two foreign journalists by FREWE ABAYNEH, a representative of the underground leadership of ME'ISONE at a meeting in Addis Abeba in September 1979. It gives a brief outline on ME'ISONE, an analysis of the present situation in Ethiopia, our perspectives for the struggle, ME'ISONE's stand on Soviet bloc intervention on Ethiopia, its position on the Eritrean question, etc. If you have not read this historical document, please write to us. We shall send you a copy.