

OTHER NEWS

► Socialist International calls for withdrawal of foreign troops

On the invitation of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) and the secretariat of the Socialist International, ME'ISONE attended, as an observer, the 15th post war congress of the S.I. held in Madrid on 13-16 November 1980. The invitation forwarded to ME'ISONE testifies to the growing awareness of the international community to the realities in Ethiopia and to increasing solidarity of world democratic forces with the struggle being waged for democracy, self determination and national independence.

ME'ISONE's presence at the congress was also an act of solidarity with all those who struggle for world peace, democracy and a just international economic order. It also provided a unique occasion to meet delegations from all parts of the world and to explain the plight of the Ethiopian peoples under a ruthless military dictatorship. In addition to a solidarity message to the congress, the ME'ISONE delegation distributed to the participants a pamphlet entitled "A brief note on ME'ISONE" which outlined the role played by the organization in the Ethiopian revolutionary process, the present situation in the country and the aims and objectives of the struggle.

The resolution, concerning the Horn of Africa, which was passed by the congress, states "on the basis of self determination we support the solution of the conflict in the Horn of Africa through the decisions of the OAU and the UN. We call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops involved in these and other conflicts".

This is in line with the longstanding position of ME'ISONE. It is a victory to all democratic and patriotic forces who oppose any foreign intervention in the region in general and in Ethiopia in particular. As such, our organization fully supports this correct stand taken by the Socialist International and renews its pledge to continue the struggle against foreign intervention and for peace and justice in the region.

► Statement on the peace proposals made by the EPLF (14-01-81)

On the 22nd of November 1980, the EPLF issued a 7 point declaration containing concrete proposals aimed at solving the Eritrean problem peacefully. After the July 1978 peace proposal made by the Two Eritrean fronts and ignored by the chauvinist military dictatorship, this proposal represents yet another attempt by the EPLF to reach a negotiated settlement.

The 7 point declaration, proposes the holding of a referendum in Eritrea "in accordance with the just democratic and correct principle of the right of peoples to self determination". As steps leading to this referendum, which will permit the Eritrean peoples to choose between full independence, federal association with Ethiopia or regional autonomy, the EPLF proposes a cease fire agreement and the setting up of an international supervising commission acceptable to the Ethiopian government and the Eritrean revolution.

ME'ISONE considers that the war imposed on the Eritrean masses, first by the feudal tyranny and now by the chauvinist dictatorship is unjust. It is absolutely contrary to the interests and aspirations of both the Ethiopian and Eritrean masses. That is why it has in the past supported moves aimed at bringing the two sides to the negotiations table and reaching a just and democratic solution. As early as February 1975, it had proposed, in its official organ "The Voice of the Masses" n°22, the holding of a referendum in Eritrea. At that time ME'ISONE proposed the signing of a cease fire agreement and demanded the immediate release and effective exercise of full democratic rights both in Ethiopia and Eritrea as indispensable prerequisites for genuine self determination.

ME'ISONE and indeed all progressive and patriotic forces in Ethiopia support the EPLF declaration which they consider as a positive step towards a peaceful and just solution. But as it may be expected, this peace initiative has again been ignored by the chauvinist military regime in Ethiopia. Its response to this call has been an intensification of the war and increased atrocities in Eritrea. This is not surprising. As we have repeatedly stated, no solution to the Eritrean problem can be worked out with the chauvinist and anti-democratic regime. A just and democratic solution based on the rights of the Eritrean peoples to self determination can only be worked out once the conditions for genuine self determination are created by the united struggle of both Ethiopia's and Eritrea's progressive forces.

This fact having been recognized both by the EPLF and ME'ISONE the two vanguard organizations have been developing militant and fraternal relations specially over the last year. The agreement to develop and deepen these relations even further and create a principled alliance of struggle testifies to the reality of this conviction. Supporting all moves and proposals made by the Eritrean revolutionary forces to solve the problem peacefully and condemning the Ethiopian regime and its foreign allies for the continued atrocities committed in Eritrea, ME'ISONE will continue to work for a principled alliance of struggle which is the only sure way of doing away with reaction and of creating the conditions for genuine self determination.