

The Geneva Summit - Add Insult to Injury

On November 11, 1985 President Ronald Reagan of the U.S. and Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR, met in Geneva, Switzerland to conduct a negotiated deal which would lead to the arms race control. A second item on their agenda, which was hidden, was to discuss countries which are within the zone of the superpowers influence.

This first meeting of the two leaders was the main focus for the international press revealing the existing serious concern over nuclear holocaust. The superpowers have repeatedly acknowledged that they each possess enough nuclear heads to destroy the world five times over. What escalated the fear and concern of the international public was President Reagan's unfounded claim that a limited nuclear war in Europe is possible and winnable. This claim as well as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), commonly known as the Star Wars, was completely rejected by the Union of Concerned Scientists among whom is the world acclaimed physicist and astronomer, Dr. Carl Sagan. Dr. Sagan has asserted that a limited number of nuclear blast in the northern atmosphere could set off a nuclear winter, which within twenty-four hours engulf the southern atmosphere. This contaminated poisonous cloud would eradicate all living things on planet earth.

As concerns over nuclear holocaust internationalized the growing evidence is that Messrs Reagan and Gorbachev could not be trusted with sole responsibility to negotiate the control and elimination of nuclear bombs. In November 1985, on the eve of the Geneva Summit, a petition signed by thirty nations was presented by the Rev. Jessie Jackson et al. These nations demanded the right to be a part of any negotiation which concerned the fate of this planet earth.

The Reagan and Gorbachev hidden agenda was also as controversial. It concerned a discussion by the

two leaders, the future of countries within their zone of influence. They debated not only the regional conflicts of the recent pasts around these countries but also how these countries are to be designated as spheres of influence among the superpowers. The countries discussed in this private meeting were Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola and Nicaragua.

Ethiopians have deep concern for nuclear holocaust and hope for a peaceful resolution to the arms race before the imminent catastrophe. They would not agree with the decision on such internationally paramount issue to be left to the U.S. and USSR alone. However, at this juncture of our history the Reagan and Gorbachev "hidden" agenda has equal significance, as the first one, to the Ethiopian peoples.

The world has been a witness to the past nine years that the Ethiopian Military Government, under the leadership of Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Ethiopia has experienced tragic events of unprecedented magnitude. These tragedies included the most devastating famine in history, civil war, suppression of democratic rights and atrocities committed by the Military dictatorship which compelled millions to flee thus giving Ethiopia the label, "the most refugee producing country in the world" etc. In 1977, the Military dictatorship betrayed the National Democratic Program and sold the national sovereignty of the country to the Soviet Union. In her foreign policy, Ethiopia became not just a political ally but a satellite to Moscow. Her foreign policy, foreign trade, national defense and even the internal security are dictated and controlled by Kremlin. The Military Government has preferred complete domination by U.S.S.R. to non-aligned policy and self-reliance.

What happened at the Geneva meeting has great significance to Ethiopian patriots who are fighting for genuine national independence. They can not afford to ignore that the future of their country

was discussed by the two superpowers, as "hidden" agenda without their representation. They recognize that this is a further threat and a violation of Ethiopian national sovereignty. With a deep feeling of hurt to the national pride and anger they will ask: What was the future partition plan in their sphere of influence Messrs Reagan and Gorbachev set for Ethiopia? By whose authority did Gorbachev delegate Ethiopia? In fact, what right do these two men have to discuss the Ethiopia's future (even if we were too naive to assume it was in her best interest) without her peoples' consent?

This was not the first time foreign powers met to confer on Ethiopia's destiny. It is to be remembered that in 1906, then the world colonial powers, viz: France, Britain, and Italy had signed a "tri-partite agreement" - a three way mutual agreement on what they planned to scramble Ethiopia upon the death of Emperor Menelik II. The Emperor was clear and firm in asserting that their agreement would not be recognized or allowed to have any impact on the "country's national sovereignty."

It is also to be recalled that in 1935, during the Italian partial occupation of Ethiopia, the French Foreign Minister Pierre La Salle and his British counterpart Samuel Horn had a secret meeting where they had planned alternative solution to the total colonization of Ethiopia by Italy. They have agreed that half of the territory of Ethiopia would be surrendered to Italy as part of the peace plan. Emperor Haile-Selassie was even swift informing the League of Nations his opposition to such a partition plan.

How about the current "ruler" of Ethiopia, Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam? Did he voice any opposition in behalf of Ethiopia? Of course not! We knew that he met with the Soviet leader a few days before the summit was held, and was made aware that Ethiopia was on the agenda. The fact that he

did not issue a statement of opposition was an indication of his endorsement of the agenda. He only not implicitly authorized Gorbachev as the spokesman for the Ethiopian peoples but concurred with the right of the superpowers to mingle in the affairs of our sovereign nation. This blatant violation of our right is a result of Mengistu's foreign policy which subjected Ethiopia under the domination of U.S.S.R. It is not hard to conclude then that Ethiopia, thanks to the Mengistu regime, has forfeit her right to speak for herself and her national sovereignty does not exist.

This indeed is a disturbing position which concerns all Ethiopian patriots and democrats who dearly love, care and believe in the independence of their country and freedom of their peoples. Colonel Mengistu and his cohorts are responsible for the total misery of the people, erosion of self-pride and loss of national liberty. The time is over due when Ethiopians of all faiths, national origin and political affiliations must unite their forces to extirpate this indigenous cancer cell - the Military Dictatorship - and restore an independent democratic Ethiopia.