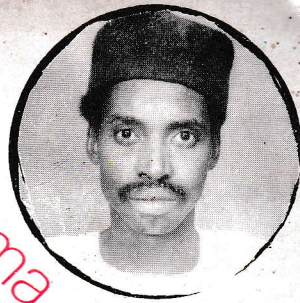


January 1986



Chiroma cheers
Bank Union Militancy

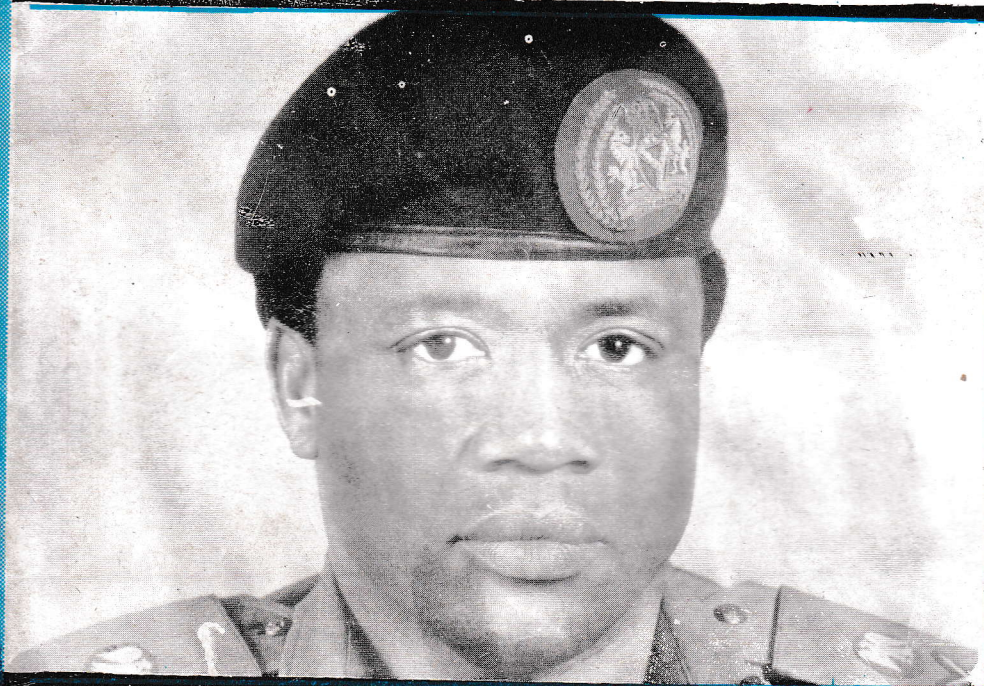
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NEW HORIZON

Nigeria's Marxist Monthly

VOL. 6 NO. 1 DEC-JANUARY 1986



THE COUP TO END ALL COUPS!

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World Marxist Review

PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM

'...Africa can withstand imperialist intrigues'

— Mengistu

The General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam recently gave an interview on wide ranging subjects. We reproduce excerpts of the interview:

Question: What are the aims of the foreign policy activity of socialist Ethiopia at present?

Answer: Ethiopia's foreign policy is based on the time-tested principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of states, mutually advantageous cooperation with all states on the basis of equality and the non-use of force in the settlement of disputes.

Our foreign policy rests on the twin pillars of proletarian internationalism and peaceful coexistence.

We give special emphasis to fostering good-neighbourliness and cooperation, and to bringing about peace in our region. We also attach great importance to the strengthening of African unity and cooperating in the effort to extricate our continent from economic backwardness and underdevelopment. Ethiopia also actively strives for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Question: What progress has been made in carrying out the Programme of Action drawn up by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia to overcome the consequences of the drought and to solve the food problem?

Answer: I must say that considerable progress has already been made. Essentially, the programme consists of saving lives by providing immediate relief assistance, rehabilitating the victims of the drought as much as possible in the afflicted areas and resettling part of the victims in the fertile areas of the country.

We have managed to mitigate the harmful effects of the drought. The death toll of the hungry has been halted. The shelters that were once packed with thousands of drought victims are almost totally abandoned. In a period of just seven months, we have resettled

over 500,000 peasants. We are glad to note that much of the effort is already firmly on the road to success.

Our resettlement programme, still the target of criticism by our enemies, has already given unmistakable indications that it will be a going concern. The solid infrastructure we have laid and the mechanized farms put at the disposal of the settlers gave them the assurance of a better life for themselves and their children. We owe this positive development to the dedication and hard work of our people—workers, peasants and intellectuals.

We could hardly have achieved so much without the generous assistance of many countries and donor agencies. This assistance formed the crucial supplement to our own effort. In this connection, I wish to thank the people, government and party of the Soviet Union for their generous fraternal assistance to our people in their hour of need.

But the impact of the drought is not yet completely removed. A major drought like the one that has struck Ethiopia has effects that can hardly be overcome in days or months. Very often, a couple of lean years have to be endured until the consequences are done away with.

Our long-term objective is to eliminate any future recurrence of food-deficit situations in our country. That can be spelled out as the development of the necessary capability to withstand the impact of cyclical drought and finally break the cycle itself. This would involve, among other things, increasing the productivity of the rural sector, a sustained redistribution of rural manpower and an effective programme of environmental rehabilitation. With a party that has already proved its worth and a hard-working people, we are more than sure that we can give an adequate response to this major challenge.



Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam

Question: Western propaganda presents the Eritrean separatists as fighters for some righteous cause. This was reflected in the recent speech in the U.N. of the head of the U.S. Administration. What is your opinion of such propaganda and what are the prospects for resolving the nationalities question in your country, particularly in connection with the preparation for the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia?

Answer: To contend that the bandits in Eritrea are fighting for a righteous cause is to condone brigandage and terrorism. This must be clear to everyone in the West, including the head of the U.S. Administration. You see, the criminal act against the national unity of Ethiopia has become a booming multimillion-dollar business run by imperialism and reaction. It has provided job opportunity for those who are cold-blooded enough to murder their own brothers and sisters in exchange for thick wads of dollars and sumptuous villas in Europe and the Middle East. Such a lucrative offer cannot but attract mercenaries and assassins.

Despite the destructive acts of these elements who are hostile to the people, we have not refrained from seeking a

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NIGERIA

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VOL. 6

NO. 1

DEC-JANUARY 1986

ALL NIGERIA PEACE AND
SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION

says

◆ **SALUTE
TO
COURAGE**

◆ **Mobilize
support for
Mandela's release**

◆ **Blacklist all companies having
connections with racist South Africa**



WINNIE MANDELA

Human Rights
- Political
- Economic
- Social
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9/1/86