

An additional effect of a CIA-sponsored coup against Amin would be to prevent the threat of a reinstatement of Uganda's former President, Milton Obote — a close associate of President Nyerere.

Target: Horn of Africa

The Uganda crisis was to provide the smokescreen for U.S. intervention into strategic Ethiopia. With a controlling coastline of the Red Sea, Ethiopia is the gateway to the Suez Canal and to the Israeli-controlled area of the Sinai peninsula. The U.S. has had a major communications base used for commanding U.S. nuclear submarine and naval operations in the Indian Ocean. Already one portion of the Horn — Somalia — is under a socialist government that is close to the Soviet Union.

With the failed Uganda coup attempt the operation in Ethiopia has failed with even more of a vengeance. As sources outlined, in early February there was a coup attempt in Ethiopia by a group of pro-U.S. officers of the ruling military junta, who hoped to clear out the remaining influence of a group of radical nationalist military officers allied with an important circle of pro-Soviet socialist intellectuals and trade unionists. The coup not only failed but the entire circle of pro-U.S. officers was killed in the attempt, leaving the government firmly in the control of the pro-socialist grouping who have since moved rapidly to align Ethiopia with the non-aligned and socialist countries and begin cleaning out of the military and other layers the extensive influence of both U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies.

Two immediate questions for the new Ethiopian regime are the resolution of the numerous tensions on the borders with socialist Somalia to the east and Sudan to the north, and dealing with the tremendous internal breakdown and subversion operations. The longstanding Ethiopia-Somalia dispute is now being mediated by

African countries, including Tanzania, and the Ethiopian government has publicly stated its desire to establish cooperative relations with Somalia. Sudan, which has been backing the secessionist movement in the northern Ethiopian province of Eritrea, is a larger problem which remains to be peacefully solved. The Sudanese bear a grudge against Ethiopia dating to Israeli intelligence use of Ethiopia as a base for running a major secessionist movement in southern Sudan.

Since the coup the new regime in Ethiopia faces a massive U.S.-run campaign of terror and assassination against government leaders and their supporters. In the capital city of Addis Ababa the Maoist "Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party," a U.S. intelligence agency creation, has carried out the killings including among their recent victims the head of the trade union federation.

The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* correspondents in Addis have been churning out stories on the instability of the new government, described as a "dictatorship" based on "violence" — all aimed at creating the climate for a second attempt at destabilization of that strategic country. Secretary of State Vance added his bit by announcing a cutoff of U.S. military aid to Ethiopia, under the guise of violations of "human rights," a convenient rationale for the fact that the formerly U.S.-tied regime has announced it will now seek arms from the socialist countries.

But this face-saving posture has fooled no one. "The decision of the American Department of State to reduce financial aid... to Ethiopia, is officially inspired by moral considerations," comments the French daily *Le Monde* Feb. 28, but it also "ratifies an undeniable loss of American influence in a country which was a longstanding privileged ally of Washington in eastern Africa."

An Interview With Ethiopia's Mengistu — The Man Carter Wanted Out

The Carter Administration's attempted coup to eliminate the alliance of Lt.-Col. Mengistu Haile Marian and Haile Fida, pro-Soviet director of the Office of Political and Mass Organizing (OPMO) in Ethiopia, has instead left Mengistu and Fida in a stronger position. The coup was to have capped a four-month Chile-type chaos operation of terror, assassination, and economic sabotage that had been underway since the arrival in Ethiopia of U.S. Ambassador and CIA operative McMurtrie Godley in September.

After finding out about the coup plans, according to the Yugoslav press agency Tanjug, Mengistu on Feb. 3 had Dergue president Teferi Bante and six other Dergue members who were on the inside of the operation arrested. He then called an emergency meeting of the rest of the Permanent Committee, the 17-member highest body of the Ethiopian government, showing them working documents found in the possession of the plot-

ters which laid out plans to profoundly revise the political line put into effect by Mengistu and Fida.

In the course of this meeting the security chief of the Dergue headquarters burst into the meeting and opened fire on the participants, killing Dr. Senaye Likke, a close collaborator of Fida, Lt.-Col. Daniel Asfaw, Dergue member, and an unidentified soldier before he himself was killed. After this panic-stricken response to the arrests was dealt with, the seven conspirators were executed.

Of the seven insiders to the operation, there were two ringleaders: Alemayeu Haile and Mogus Wolde Michael, both avowed enemies of Fida. Mogus, who played the primary role, was trying to reverse specific policies put through by Mengistu and Fida, such as the reorganization of the agent-ridden labor union, elimination of the ultra-leftist countergang, EPRP.

The following interview with Mengistu was published by Prensa Latina, the Cuban press service, on March 2:

ADDIS ABABA, Mar. 2 (PL) — The Ethiopian people must be quick to face new imperialist attempts to frustrate the Ethiopian revolution, in spite of the recent failure of the reactionary forces, declared President Mengistu Haile Marian here.

In an interview given to Prensa Latina, in the old Imperial Palace, present headquarters of the Military Provisional Council (Dergue), Mengistu said that the governments of Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and other reactionary Arab countries in concert with the United States, were plotting to impede and sabotage the example signified by revolutionary Ethiopia.

The problems confronting the Ethiopian process and the Government's measures to solve them were discussed by Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu, who has occupied the Presidency of the Dergue since Feb. 1, dating from the fight during the attempted coup d'etat of Brigadier Teferi Banti and six other soldiers.

The intended coup d'etat of Feb. 3 was linked to all the previous conspiracies. Nevertheless, our situation is much improved since the counterrevolutionaries in the heart of the Dergue were eliminated, Mengistu said.

The unity and political understanding within the Dergue have been increased, and the Ethiopian revolution can now pass from the defensive to the offensive.

The Ethiopian President specified that the elimination of the counterrevolutionaries will not resolve all the problems of the country, because more difficulties always await in the future.

Asked by Prensa Latina about the participation of the United States and the Central Intelligence Agency in the activities against the Ethiopian revolutionary process, in particular the latest incidents of Feb. 3, Mengistu Haile Marian said:

It is necessary merely to see the Spencer report, made to the U.S. Congress by this CIA agent in which it was reported that it would be necessary to continue the relations that existed at that time between the feudal fascist regime and U.S. imperialism, in order to control the situation in the country and eradicate the Ethiopian revolutionary tendency.

The imperialists use two means to pursue their objectives. On the one hand they call on the reactionary Arab countries for aid, like Saudi Arabia and Sudan, to help the secessionists in order to harass the revolutionary Ethiopian governments.

On the other hand, they foment problems in the capital, to create the situation propitious for a fascist coup d'etat. For example, in the north of Ethiopia, mercenaries and dispossessed aristocrats infiltrate from neighboring countries and fire on Ethiopian peasants and soldiers, said Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu.

Before discussing the plans of the enemies of the Ethiopian government to liquidate the revolution, the premier said that it was necessary to explain how the forces of reaction and imperialism are presently proceeding.

While the people are struggling for a new and just

society, the imperialists give aid to the elements who are fighting against the peasant associations and the unions, committing economic sabotage and political assassinations.

Recently, for example, reactionary agents just assassinated the president of the central trade union of Ethiopia, created two months ago, and wounded his Adjunct Secretary-General.

The aggressions committed against the country will continue to happen, but it is not possible to predict exactly when the next coup attempt will happen, said Mengistu Haile.

In Ethiopia, a revolution is developing which will proceed to socialism, and this is frightening to reactionary forces, because our process can be an example for other African countries.

Our people must prepare themselves and face any eventuality to defend their revolution, for we are convinced that the imperialists and the reactionary forces are decided upon destroying the Ethiopian revolution, the President reiterated.

Sudan, he said, has eliminated a great number of communists, and repressed the authentic movements of the Sudanese people. This government, which had strong relations with the feudal fascist regime of Ethiopia (Selassie's — ed.), opposes itself to the revolutionary movement of Ethiopia, because they see that this has repercussions in their country.

This hostility was born, after all, after the visit of President Numeiry to the United States, and since the signing of the Egyptian-Sudanese-Saudi pact, said the Ethiopian premier.

The Sudanese government supports the so-called "Front for the Liberation of Eritrea" (FLE), which creation dates from the same time. They give them offices, medical installations and weapons.

Sudan also supports the aristocrats who escaped from Ethiopia, and offers refuge to their mercenaries. Presently, with money from the U.S. imperialists and from Saudi Arabia, they are building a radio station, to broadcast propaganda against Ethiopia, which constitutes a direct intervention into our affairs, said President Mengistu Haile.

We can discern that there are counterrevolutionary clouds which float in the northern part of our country and that all this corresponds with the "Spencer report," which has been mentioned.

All this that has been said about Sudan concerns the anticommunist government of Numeiry, for there is no contradiction between our people and the Sudanese masses who support the Ethiopian revolution.

The real Sudanese people suffer under the yoke of this regime, a present-day reproduction of the old Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, which prevents them from freely deciding their destiny, Mengistu reaffirmed.

Questioned on the possibility of creating an alliance between Ethiopia, Somalia, and Democratic Yemen (across the Red Sea on the Arabian Peninsula — ed.), which would stop the hegemonistic plans of the United States in this region, the premier responded that all the progressives in his country considered this perspective quite possible.

Our government, he said, has made proposals to the

Somali administration with the objective of realizing areas of collaboration in education and economics between our countries.

We also have proposed the creation of an airline between our countries, of a telecommunications net and the development of commercial relations, he said.

He also added that at present there exist difficulties to achieving these objectives.

In relation to Democratic Yemen, the Ethiopian president affirmed that his government maintains extremely good relations with the heads of this country, and reiterated that he hoped that the idea of a common front is possible.

Concerning Djibouti, a territory bordering Ethiopia and the last French colony in Africa, the premier responded that the position of his country is very clear.

Our position, he said, is the same as those adopted by the Organization of African Unity, the non-aligned countries and the United Nations: the independence of this territory.

He explained that in Djibouti exist two nationalities, the Affars and the Issas, and that both also live in Ethiopia.

There is a tendency represented by the Affars which is interested in the joining of Djibouti with Ethiopia, and there in the territory is another movement which is inclined toward Somalia, he said.

He added that a third movement, stronger than the other two, struggles for independence and the creation in Djibouti of a sovereign national state.

Other currents aspire to the perpetuation in this territory of French colonialism.

In view of these different positions, he said, and taking into account that the majority of the population aspires to independence, it would be irresponsible to assume that Djibouti will be annexed to Somalia or to Ethiopia, (several countries have shown themselves to be partisans of the independence of Djibouti).

What should happen is joint work to establish a progressive government there which will contribute to

the formation of an anti-imperialist front, he emphasized.

In relation with the Ethiopian colonial heritage, the premier specified that to sweep away this legacy and construct a new society, it is necessary to realize the revolution and initiate an epoch of socio-economic transformations.

The poverty, sickness and ignorance which our people suffer will only be eradicated with the continuation of the revolutionary struggle, said the premier.

Among the measures adopted by the Dergue, Mengistu listed the distribution of the land to the peasants, (95 per cent of the population) and the nationalization of foreign concerns.

In accord with the program of the national democratic revolution, he said, we are working to modernize agriculture and to continue with the process of nationalization.

In reference to education, Mengistu affirmed that all the Ethiopian people should have access to a high level of instruction, and that a governmental commission for superior education was recently created toward this end.

In addition to these internal measures, we are working to establish a convention of cooperation with the socialist countries and to realize various projects which will guarantee a rapid socio-economic development, he said.

The President of the Ethiopian Military Provisional Council also referred to the necessity of constructing a working class party, and added that the founding of this organization has been one of the principal difficulties of the Ethiopian revolution."

Affirming that the date of the creation of this party depends on the future development of the revolutionary process, Mengistu announced that there exist in the country Marxist-Leninist organizations working toward this end.

We are marshalling all the forces possible to create a vanguard party, he said, simultaneously with fighting forces that exist in the nation and with new revolutionary cadres, which are forming all over the country.