

**THE
ERITREAN
REVIEW**

No. 40 March-April 1977

Published by Eritrean Liberation Front (E.L.F.) Popular Liberation forces (P.L.F)

Address P. O. Box 14/5404, Beirut, Lebanon.

editorial

**THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE REGION
AND THE MOST PRESSING TASKS AHEAD**

P. 2-3.

The People's Liberation Forces concluded their first organizational conference by adopting resolutions and issuing recommendations which embodied to a large extent the will of the Eritrean masses who are pressing for the unification of the three groups of the Eritrean Revolution, and the mobilisation of all energies for the accomplishment of national independence. As described by the friendly delegations and the journalists who visited the liberated areas in Eritrea, the conference was a demonstration for unity from the day it, was opened to the day its final resolutions were announced.

The conference was a big leap forward if we take into consideration the important resolutions it passed and the new tasks assigned to the newly elected leadership and the auxiliary committees. The function of every individual in the organization was prescribed precisely in the framework of a manifest political line which has at the top of its objectives the liberation of Eritrea and the proclamation of its full independence.

The Eritrean Revolution is at present encountering very crucial circumstances. The region of which Eritrea is a part became a coveted object and a centre of a frenzied international contest which is primarily aimed at creating centres of power and zones of influence. This contest also aims at the establishment of new interests for the super powers who disdain the destiny of small nations as imponderable and weightless. This super power contest which is prompted by vested interests in the region of North East Africa likewise attracted other states which are also after petty interests.

The fascist Ethiopian regime, which is dominated by a bunch of hangmen who have indifferently massacred thousands of innocent people including women, children and elderly people, exploits this super power rivalry to consolidate its power and get rid of the problems that are harassing it continuously. Other states view the contest from afar drawing an evil omen from it, and take positions against our people's cause in an unusual frivolity and levity.

The situation is shifting towards complexity due to the fact that the interests and the positions of the countries coveting in the region have become interwoven.

The resultant situation requires from the Eritrean Revolution to take a new stand and make concerted efforts in order to frustrate the Ethiopian initiative which is seeking to make gains through her new alliances.

We are confident of our people's ability to persist in the struggle and to launch the final offensive in the battle for liberation. However, the said ability is subject to a variety of factors all of which are in the hands of the Eritrean people. Therefore, it will be an enormous blunder and a serious mistake to leave these factors unemployed and not to bring them into full play to confront the new dangers.

During Haile Selassie's reign, Ethiopia had always sought to set up multifarious alliances for the sake of an explicit goal namely to do away with the Eritrean Revolution and to silence and suppress the voice of the Eritrean people. The present Ethiopian regime is employing the same method and is making use of certain changes that took place in the region and is seeking to realize the same old objective, that is, to do away with the Eritrean Revolution and overstep the right of our people to decide its own fate.

While deploring and expressing our disapprobation of the positions taken by certain states which are characterized by emotionalism and giving preference to the transitory interests over principles, we hope that those states will not be pushed toward more extreme stances which will place them in the position of a supporter of an autocratic regime and opposer of the just struggle and legitimate interests of a people.

The Eritrean people will not simply abandon the gains of sixteen years of bitter and protracted struggle out of regard for external wishes and out of regard for Mengistu's bogus socialism.

The people of Eritrea have accomplished 90% of the liberation tasks and the remaining tasks will be fulfilled before long. Thus our people will soon reap the fruits of their heroic struggle fully.

THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE

UNANIMITY ON TOTAL NATIONAL UNITY

P. 4-6

The ELF/PLF held its first organizational conference in the liberated areas in Eritrea in the period from 22 to 29 March, 1977.

Those who attended the conference were representatives from the mass organizations, political and military departments as well as Eritrean nationalist personages. The number of Eritreans who attended the conference as delegates was 725.

In addition, representatives from the Republic of Iraq, Arab Republic of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan Democratic Republic, Somali Democratic Republic, Palestine Liberation Organization and the Liberation Front of the Somali Coast (Djibouti) also

attended the conference as guests of honour at the invitation of the leadership of the Front. Over and above, representatives from the Arab and the European mass media were also present to cover the conference.

The conference opened its meetings by an uproarious patriotic demonstration in which the participants shouted for unity in order to achieve liberation and proclaim the independence of Eritrea. The demonstrators also expressed determination to continue the struggle through to the end as well as readiness for all types of sacrifices no matter how exorbitant these sacrifices may be until the last Ethiopian soldier is dislodged from Eritrea.

With a sense of responsibility and in all seriousness, the participants of the conference discussed all the reports submitted by the political leadership namely the Foreign Mission, and the Provisional Military Command, as well as the projects and the studies that were brought before the conference by the preparatory committee of the conference and other organs.

The meetings of the conference were characterized by vitality, enthusiasm, sense of responsibility and conscious discussion of all the topics and issues that were inserted on the agenda.

The friendly delegations also stood before the conference to voice the principled positions of their governments and organizations all of which back up the unity of the Eritrean Revolution and prop it morally and materially till complete and thorough liberation is achieved.

This important conference which all the masses of our people at home and abroad and all the fighters in the field as well as the friends of the Eritrean people were waiting for came to give expression to the wishes, ambitions and aspirations of all through its revolutionary and constructive decisions.

The political leadership of ELF/PLF, bearing in mind the obvious democratic propensity of the fighting Eritrean people, decided that this historic conference be enlarged and made sure that representatives from the revolutionary forces who joined in a league and waged a protracted struggle against Ethiopian colonialism attend the conference and have a say in it.

Today our people are getting close to their objective i.e. national independence, freedom and the establishment of a just Eritrean society.

THE FINAL STATEMENT
P. 16-21.

The Eritrean Liberation Front - People's Liberation Forces - held its first organizational conference in the liberated areas in Eritrea from March 22 to 29 of it.

Those who attended the conference included representatives from the political and military wings as well as representatives from the mass organizations, and Eritrean nationalist personages. The total number of those who attended and took part in the work of the conference reached 725 delegates.

Likewise, representatives from the Republic of Iraq, Arab Republic of Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan Democratic Republic, Somali Democratic Republic, Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Liberation Front for the Somali Coast (Djibouti) attended the conference. In addition, a host of mass media representatives namely TV, press and broadcasting stations from many countries attended the conference to cover its activities.

The conference opened its sittings in a vociferous national demonstration in which the participants cried out for unity in order to realize liberation and national independence, and expressed their insistence on continuing the struggle, and their preparedness for all kinds of sacrifices no matter how fabulous they may be until the last Ethiopian soldier who is contaminating the clean soil of Eritrea is ejected and driven out for good.

With a full sense of responsibility, the conferees discussed all the reports submitted by the political leadership namely the Foreign Mission, and the provisional military command, as well as the projects and the research papers submitted by the preparatory committee for the first organizational conference, and other bodies.

The sittings of the conference were characterized by vitality, and conscious discussions of all the issues that were placed on the agenda of the conference.

The brotherly and friendly delegations stood before the conference to express their positions and those of their governments and organisations in support of the unity of the Eritrean Revolution, and to bolster it up morally and materially till utter liberation is achieved.

This general conference which all our masses at home and abroad as well as all the freedom fighters in the field and also the friends of the Eritrean Revolution have long been waiting for came to give sincere expression to the wishes, ambitions and the aspirations of all through the recommendations and the constructive and revolutionary decisions it has taken examples of which are given below:

National Unity

Since national unity has become a strategic goal and a pressing popular demand and a necessary condition for the victory of the Eritrean Revolution, and in view of the international concern at the situation in our area at present, and the consequences this could have on the internal situation in Eritrea, Arabia and Africa, and taking cognizance of the position of the ruling military regime in Ethiopia and the challenges it is facing at home as well as its machinations and endeavours aimed at continuing Ethiopia's colonization of Eritrea, and taking into account the identity of our views regarding national unity with those of the Eritrean Liberation Front - the Revolutionary Council,

and being convinced that all these factors afford of an opportune moment for the victory of the Eritrean Revolution and the proclamation of national independence, the conference decided

1) To grant the Central Committee of the organization was emerged from the conference all terms of reference to reach immediate amalgamation of the Eritrean Liberation Front the Revolutionary Council to means of a democratic national front which necessarily means the formation of one front one leadership, one army, political programme and constitution.

Having deeply studied this decision coupled with full understanding and knowledge of the objective and subjective circumstances of our revolution, the successive development that took place in Africa, Arabia and the Red Sea, the Central Council took note the achievement of a speedy and immediate unity among the detachments of the Eritrean revolution is an historical ...that imposes itself in order to accomplish Eritrea's independence. Therefore, the Central Council took the following steps :

- a) It gave full terms of conference to the Executive Committee to embark immediately on its work by contacting the parties concerned and to dialogue with them so as to derive at tangible and positive results in accordance with the decisions of the conference.
- b) It appointed a seven-man dialogue committee from the members of the Central Council.
- c) It addressed two letters to both the Eritrean Liberation Front - the Revolutionary Council, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea asking them to embark upon a democratic dialogue so as to achieve total unity.
- d) It was decided that all the organs of the organisation that emerged from the conference have to direct an appeal to all the friends and supporters of the Eritrean Revolution asking them to assist us in bringing about the unity of the Eritrean Revolution.

Enemy and his moves

The Central Committee took note of the machinations and the devices of the Ethiopian ruling military regime (the Derg), its moves and feverish tactics as well as the preparations it is making for the sake of Ethiopia's indefinite colonization of Eritrea.

In this occasion, the Central Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front - People's Liberation Forces - directs an appeal to friendly governments to intensify their political, military and material backing to the Eritrean Revolution. Similarly, the Central Committee appeals to all friendly organizations, world public opinion and all peace-loving forces that support the right of the peoples to self-determination to stand on the side of the Eritrean people in its just struggle and condemn the Ethiopian aggression on Eritrea.

The Central Council concluded its work successfully confirming its persistence and determination to keep at implementing the decisions of the first organizational conference of the Eritrean Liberation Front - People's Liberation Forces - which to all intents and

purposes serve the interests and aspirations of our people in unity and national independence.

FINAL STATEMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF PLF CENTRAL COUNCIL

P. 19

Following the winding up the meetings of the first organizational conference, the Central Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front - People's Liberation Forces - held its first session in the liberated areas in Eritrea in the course of the period from 3rd to 9th April, 1977. The Council discussed numerous issues a summary of which is given below:

Election of Central Council Chairman

The Central Council has unanimously elected the veteran freedom fighter Mr. Osman Saleh Sabbe as chairman of both the Central Council and the Executive Committee, as well as spokesman of the organisation. The Central Council has also elected a nine-man Executive Committee and designated the offices each one of them will be entrusted to administrate. Accordingly, the executive offices have embarked on performing their revolutionary activities.

Conference Decisions

The Central Council has fully reviewed the decisions taken by the first organizational conference of the Eritrean Liberation Front - People's Liberation Forces - and took the necessary measures to implement them. And in order to execute these decisions, the role assigned to every executive office was specified.

The Central Council has called on all the members of the organization in the various political, military and mass segments to compete in carrying the resolutions and the decisions of the conference into effect in accordance with the directives and instructions they receive from the executive offices.

National Unity

In its first session, the Central Council has appraised the current situation in the Eritrean field. The council members drew the conclusion that the continuance of division in the Eritrean field bodes no good for the Eritrean Revolution. They also came to the conclusion that the only guarantee to crown the Eritrean people's struggle in final victory and proclaim the independence of Eritrea is to bring about immediate and speedy unity in the ranks of the various detachments of the Revolution.

The Council then reviewed the resolution passed by the conference regarding national unity which stipulated the following :

1. The conference authorize the central leadership of the organisation that emanated from the conference to accomplish unity by immediately amalgamating the People's Liberation Forces with the Eritrean Liberation Front - the Revolutionary Council - by the medium of a democratic national front which necessarily means the formation of one front with one leadership, one army, one political programme and one constitution.

2. The conference recommends the continuation of democratic dialogue with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea for the purpose of reaching total national unity.
3. The conference recommends to the leadership of the organisation to seek aid from our friends and ask them to use their good offices with the parties concerned so as to accomplish the central objective of the Eritrean Revolution.
4. The conference lauds the efforts made by the Eritrean masses and the fighters for the sake of unity.

After making a minute study of the above-cited resolution coupled with awareness of the subjective and objective circumstances besetting our revolution, and the successive developments that took and are taking place in Africa, Arabia and in the Red Sea region, the Central Council was carried into conviction that the realization of speedy unity among the contingents of the Eritrean Revolution was an historical task and unavoidable duty in order to accomplish the independence of Eritrea. Accordingly, the Central Council has taken the following steps :

- a) It fully empowered the Executive Committee to start contacts forthwith with all the parties concerned, and begin a dialogue to arrive at conclusive results in accordance with the resolution of the conference.
- b) It appointed a dialogue committee from the Central Council composed of seven members.
- c) It directed two letters to the Eritrean Liberation Front the Revolutionary Council, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea, exhorting them to begin democratic dialogue in order to achieve total national unity.
- d) It decided to mobilize all the organs of the PLF to raise aloft the banner of national unity and display it in their daily practice.
- e) It appealed to all friends of the Eritrean people to contribute to the unification of the Eritrean Revolution.

Enemy and his moves

The Central Council took note of the intrigues of the Ethiopian ruling military junta (Derg), its moves and frenzied tactics and the preparations it is making in order to perpetuate Ethiopia's colonization of Eritrea.

The Central Council has appealed to friendly government to intensify their political, military and material backing to the Eritrean Revolution. Similarly, The Central Council has appealed to all friendly organisations, world public opinion and all peace-loving forces that support the right of the peoples to self-determination to stand on the side of the Eritrean people in their just struggle, and condemn the Ethiopian aggression on Eritrea.

The Central Council concluded its work successfully confirming its determination to carry out the decisions of the first organizational conference of the Eritrean Liberation

Front - People's Liberation Forces - which to all intents and purposes serve the interests and aspirations of our people in unity and national independence.

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