

Soviets Warn Carter:

'War On The Horn Will Be Your Responsibility'

The Soviet Communist Party daily *Pravda* on July 16 issued a warning to the Carter Administration over the American-sponsored destabilization of Ethiopia and Somalia on the Horn of northeast Africa. The article, by *Pravda* columnist Pavel Mezentsev charged the CIA, Carter's Atlanticist allies in Europe and the pro-American factions in Egypt, and Saudi Arabia with "...supporting the internal counter-revolution and instigating the Sudan to begin a military conflict with Ethiopia. They are kindling separatist sentiments in the hope of partitioning the country and thus strangling the Ethiopian revolution."

"This is playing with fire," Mezentsev continued, "and those who are doing it will bear grave responsibility to the peoples of Africa and the whole world."

At present, efforts are being made to lure or coerce Somalia's pro-socialist government into the right-wing alliance being put together under the direction of Anwar Sadat of Egypt and various "moderate" French-speaking African states under the direction of Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Siad Barre has been courted in the hopes of influencing him to kick out Somalia's large number of Soviet technicians, who aid in the country's defense and economic development, in return for Saudi money.

Siad has hitherto rejected the Saudi offers, although he did make a state visit to Saudi Arabia in late June, where he met with King Khaled, Crown Prince Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Feisal. Siad pointed out to an interviewer last month that if he went the way of Sadat, he would fully expect to end up in the same disastrous economic mess in which Egypt now finds itself in. He is under considerable pressure, however, from backward

Somali nationalist elements, to escalate the guerrilla campaign to reclaim land inhabited by ethnic Somalia in neighboring Ethiopia, a campaign which is on the verge of touching off border clashes and possibly war between the two countries in the near future.

Somali-backed guerrillas last week attacked the Ethiopian town of Dire Dawa in the southern part of the country, threatening Ethiopia's only rail line to the sea.

In continuing attempts to push Siad to the West, British and American newspapers have been reporting the "expulsion" of Soviet advisors. The most scurrilous came from the British *Sunday Telegraph* this week, which claimed "All Russian Advisors Ordered Out of Somalia" in a front page banner-headlined story. Citing "Middle Eastern diplomatic sources," the *Telegraph* claimed that Siad had given the Soviets two months to leave and had made a deal with the Saudis to replace their services. Other reports, citing "diplomatic sources in Nairobi..." — a euphemism for the CIA station chief — have used considerably greater caution, but carried essentially the same story.

The Somali news agency denied the stories categorically July 20 and charged that they were "distributed by certain reactionary organs of the Arab press (and) are baseless and part of a propaganda campaign of rumors developed by imperialist circles against Somalia." The idea that Siad, even were he so inclined, could merely snap his fingers and move Somalia to the right, is ludicrous, according to African sources, who point to a "well entrenched" socialist faction in the army and civil service who would squelch any attempt to bring the Anwar Sadats of Somalia to power.