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of RATANOV, A.P.

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RECORD OF CONVERSATION
with the Chairman of the PMAC MENGISTU HAILE
MARIAM
September 10, 1977

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SUBJECT TO RETURN TO
THE GENERAL
DEPARTMENT CC CPSU

On September 10, together with the heads of the diplomatic missions of Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen], Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, the PDRK [People's Democratic Republic of Korea], Cuba, and Yugoslavia, I was invited to visit Mengistu Haile Mariam. From the Ethiopian side, Atnafu Abate and Berkhanu Bayeh, Deputy Chairman of the PMAC and member of its Permanent Committee, respectively, took part in the meeting, along with the Minister of Internal Affairs, Gedle-Giorgis.

Mengistu said that the goal of this meeting was to inform the governments of the socialist countries and the PDRY, through their representatives in Addis-Ababa, about the discovery by the PMAC of an imperialist plot against the Ethiopian revolution, in which to some or another extent are participating the USA (the initiator or the plot), Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kenya, and Somalia.

According to the document, which fell into the hands of the PMAC "from trusted sources," CIA official E. Kelly from the USA Embassy in Nairobi has worked out a coordinated plan of action of domestic Ethiopian counterrevolutionary forces and the countries which support them, which envisages a range of acts at the end of September - beginning of October of this year, which have as their goal the overthrow of the PMAC and the creation of a pro-Western, reactionary government. Terrorist acts in Addis-Ababa against members of the PMAC leadership and the organization of a combined attack of military formations prepared on the territories of Sudan and Kenya, and also a continuation of Somali aggression are parts of the plan.

In this regard Mengistu Haile Mariam said that in the mentioned document various types of military sub-units are listed and their specific tasks are set forth. The attack should begin simultaneously from the north-west, west, and south in the direction of Addis-Ababa. In fact, as far as Somalia is concerned, its forces which are located on the territory of Ethiopia on September 10 of this year again attacked Jujiga, in the event of the capture of which they are planning an attack on the administrative center of that region, Harer, and the great industrial center Dire Dawa. Battles for Jujiga are continuing.

Among the number of parties and organizations which are participating in the plot, Mengistu named the Eritrean separatist organization, the Ethiopian Democratic Union, the

Movement for the Liberation of the Afars (detachments of this movement should attack Assab).

In conclusion, having declared that the PMAC is taking measures now to explode the schemes of the participants in the plot, Mengistu expressed the hope that the socialist countries, whose assistance is decisive for Ethiopia, will provide it at this critical moment the necessary political and military support. In this regard he noted that one of the most serious problems for Ethiopia may be the problem of fuel, since the Arab countries intend to apply an embargo on deliveries of fuel to Ethiopia (which are realized through the company Mobil).

The heads of the diplomatic missions promised to bring the information which Mengistu had provided to the attention of their governments.

AMBASSADOR of the USSR IN SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA

[signature]

(A. RATANOV)

Dep. head, International Department
CC CPSU

[signature]

(R. Ul'ianovskii) XI.27.77

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Informational material.

In the International Department, CC
CPSU we have become familiar with it.

Head of sector

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[signature]

(V. Midtsov)

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To the archive

A. Krasnova

XI.24.77