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Speech by Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, Chairman
of the Provisional Military Administrative
Council and Commander-in-Chief of the
Revolutionary Army on the Occasion of the
Commemoration of the 11th Anniversary of the
Ethiopian Revolution.

September 12, 1985.
Dear Working People of Ethiopia,

Estimeed Guests,

Comrades,

After having demolished the feudo-bourgeois order and overthrowing the monarchical rule in the last 10 years of struggle and victory and scoring a series of victories in the social, political and military fields in the process of laying down the foundation for a social revolution,

we are here today to celebrate the 11th anniversary of our Revolution and the 1st anniversary of the formation of our Party. It is with the firmness of purpose and sense of satisfaction emanating from an invincible popular power that I wish all the militants of the party a happy anniversary.

It is not necessary to speak of now of the comparative importance of the individual victories we have scored in the course of the last 10 years of struggle and victory. Our struggle in the course of the last year was not only against imperialism and reaction but also against nature. The complex nature of the struggle is clear to us and the outside world.

For your share in the struggle to combat the effects of natural calamity which in the final analysis is the legacy...
of underdevelopment inherited from the previous backward order as well as for your share in the struggle against the arrogant attempt of our enemy,

I should like once again to wish you all, militants of the Revolution, a happy 11th Anniversary of the Revolution and 1st Anniversary of the Party.

Dear Working People of Ethiopia,

I have the great honour, first of all, to announce the presence among us today of Comrade Jerry Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council and Leader of the Republic of Ghana which occupies an outstanding place in Africa's struggle against colonialism.

Ghana is too well known to us Ethiopians not only as one of West Africa's oldest countries but also as one whose sons, alongside with Ethiopians shed their blood on our soil in the successful anti-fascist patriotic war against the invading army of Fascist Italy. The traditional bond of friendship between the peoples of Ghana and Ethiopia was once again vividly demonstrated when the Ghanian veterans of that anti-fascist struggle expressed their solidarity, including their readiness to fight alongside us, when our enemies committed aggression to nip the Revolution in the bud.

.../
It is with great respect and admiration we recall the vanguard role with the people of Ghana, imbued with the spirit of African freedom have played in the effort to establish the Organization of African Unity. We take this opportunity to express our sincere fraternal and revolutionary wish to the militant leader, Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings and through him to the entire people of Ghana, that their effort to build a just society of social progress based on their proud history of anti-imperialism be crowned with success.

Working People of Ethiopia,

As you know, our entire effort was for the last year been fully devoted to grips with the disaterous consequences of drought which hit our country. Natural calamity may, of course, befall any country at any given time, the significant thing in such instances is, however, the the available capacity to curb or control the effects of the calamity. It is to be recalled, in this juncture, the sustained effort of the Revolution in setting up a special agency, i.e. the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission within the framework of its long-term objective of curbing and eventually overcoming the natural calamity visiting our country cyclically. The challenge of the last year has, however, been so severe as to defy the best of our controlling effort. Immediately after its formation, our Party had to set itself the task of combatting the effects of
drought as its top priority objective. There is little doubt that the crisis was a serious and taxing one but the achievement in mitigating the effects following the expeditious strategy and action of our Party can well be said to be pride-inspiring and exemplary.

There is no doubt that a relentless effort over a long time has yet to be mastered and deployed to eliminate the effects of recurrent drought. But, as thoroughly stated in the Central Report to the 3rd Plenary Session of our Party, not only has our effort so far been satisfactory but is also accompanied with positive indication that we are in for the attainment of our objective provided that the present momentum is kept up. We are more than certain that if, in strict conformity of the resolution of our Party, we strive in the various fields of endeavours we shall, beyond overcoming short term constraints, be fully in a position to attenuate the burden of underdevelopment which is at the root of our exposure to all sorts of calamity and thereby accelerate our growth tempo.

Our nation-wide Popular Mobilization to combat the effects of drought brought us very important direct results, as stated in details in the recently held 3rd Plenary Session of the Party. I feel that a repetition of that detail here would be superfluous. Beyond the nume.ous direct and concrete results, however, we have at the same time successfully put to test our organizational capacity and accumulated a wide spectrum of experience. We have thus got a new awareness of the great task of our already organized masses can achieve if deployed in a goal-oriented fashion. There
is therefore, no reason why we cannot meet our needs one by one if we are guided by a plan and array ourselves for action in an organized and coordinated manner.

Not wish or complaint but action or rather hard work is the road to meeting ones needs. There is, therefore, no alternative to speeding up single-mindedly our development process with the maximum utilization of our heightened awareness and the force we derived through organized life. Self-reliance is a basic and indispensable tenet for independence. Self-reliance is not a mere complacency but an action manifesting itself in concrete results. The dark centuries of feudalism are proof enough to demonstrate that complacency detached of action can get one nowhere.

Unconscious of or unwilling to accept the fact that the crucial factor for building ones country is still hard work based on self-reliance, there still are some with expectant eyes fixed on the outside world for help in this field. There is little or no doubt about the usefulness and need for foreign development cooperation based on the equality of partners. Especially, if it is proved that a specific package of foreign aid or loan is incongruous with the country's path of development, welcoming such an aid is tantamount to restoring dependence or neo-colonialism which we had over-thrown with a great struggle and sacrifice.

In a bid to develop a country the right approach should be:- What can we do on our own and what results can we achieve by the combination of our human and natural resources? and thence proceed to mapping a strategy and not reckon solely on
foreign aid. Bascically, the psychology of dependence has a negative impact of far-reaching consequence as it chokes one's creative resources which could otherwise constitute the lasting factor for self-reliance.

The sense of dependence is in the long run an obstacle to development. There can be no country ready to lavish its resources unconditionally on others. Such a dependence is indeed a false relaxation and self-condemnation to a perpetual life of undevelopment.

In the forefront of the mind of capitalism is, for instance, the search for raw material sources and market and the short and long term returns of an investment therein. Socialism is an economic relation and cooperation based on equality. The qualitative difference being that relation with capitalism is essentially one of exploitation while relation with socialism is one of mutual prosperity. It is obvious, however, that there is in either case an obligation to be met.

The inequitable relation of developed and developing nations is clearly borne out by the groaning of the latter under the heavy debt-burden. On the other hand, relation between developing and socialist countries is, of course, free from exploitation but is at once a relation in which the developing countries themselves will have to meet the obligation expected of them, i.e. it is not one in which they are permanent beneficiaries, nor can it be so either.
Insofar as our country has freed itself from the imperialist sphere of influence and opted for socialism, it is well on the road to achieving its goal of justice and progress thanks to the struggle and relentless effort of its working people as well as to its commitments to internationalism and mutually advantageous cooperation. There is little doubt that considerable change and progress has been achieved. But this auspicious situation, other than providing favourable condition in which to work unexploited and be the master of the fruit of one's labour and destiny, should not be taken as one in which needs are met without any effort and toil. Such an assumption, if any, would be a mistaken one.

Dear Compatriots,

As can be perceived from this brief analysis, it has taken a historic decision to opt for the socialist path of development. It would be a grave mistake, however, if the present favorable and new condition were not taken advantage of in saving resources by curbing unessential needs, in speeding up development by diligent work rather than lead a lifestyle one can not afford. We should, therefore, brace ourselves to struggle relentlessly to meet our needs as we rely on ourselves and take pride of the products of our labour. It is only when this condition are fulfilled that independence, a cooperation of mutual assistance with our allies (based on proletarian internationalism) and negotiation on equal footing with others can be a reality.
The guarantee for our progress is only work based on self-reliance. In order to advance forward as we overcome the difficulties standing on our way the only guarantee is to work hard and struggle in the path we have chosen for ourselves. Our priority objective is a rapid achievement of food self-sufficiency. It is true that nature has been particularly spiteful to us in this regard but since nothing can be achieved by wishfully awaiting for the mercy of nature, we have to redouble our on-going activity guided by the Action Programme of our Party.

Following the strategies formulated in the recent 3rd Plenary Session of the Party and previous guide-lines, a coordinated effort must be undertaken in order to curb and eventually overcome food shortage. The one proven way towards this objective is to increase the hectarage of cropped farms. This is not enough of itself, important though it is. Extensive use of manure and other natural fertilizers, proper care of crops and other in-puts must be used in order to step up production. We must make extensive use of irrigation by damming small rivers and catching rain water. Development of fruit and vegetable gardens and cattle-raising both in urban and rural areas must be developed to provide qualitative and quantitative diet supplement. Such undertaking in rural areas has the additional prospect of reducing to some degree city unemployment. Gradual change of diet pattern, greater emphasis on nutritive and high-yield crops, large-scale production of crops selected on the basis of their relative suitability, will go a long way to alleviating food shortage. It will be seen to it that appropriate education to this end be given.
If the effects of drought or rather underdevelopment is deep enough to disrupt our ability to feed ourselves, it should not be difficult to figure out their serious impact on the central plan we have set up to build our national economy. The time in which we find ourselves is, therefore, not one in which we can, in most cases, expect to benefit from our economy but one in which we are individually expected to contribute for its recovery and upswing. The contribution should be made, with the view to attaining single objective but so broadly based from the point of view of the masses, the country and the revolution, as to achieve multiple results. Political, economic, social and cultural endeavours are but individual aspects of an integrated life of a society, hence, the need to score equal results in all of fields. Although circumstances might arise when greater emphasis must be given to one or more aspects, it does not necessarily mean that the other aspects should be neglected. Weakness in one field has a negative impact on the success of another, hence, the effectiveness of balanced effort for the attainment an expected over-all result. Thus, if the workers', peasants, office workers, intellectuals, revolutionary men-in-uniform and other genuine citizens join hands and close ranks and deploy their collective energy for development, they could undoubtedly change our motherland's present image of a personification of poverty.
Working People of Revolutionary Ethiopia,

Our long term objective is the building of a society wherein complete peace, justice and prosperity reign, for the attainment of which a favorable political condition is indispensable. In the bid to unfold the new popular political order we had not only organized the working people at various levels but have also formed the Workers' Party which is both the vanguard and the prime-mover of the political order. Still outstanding in this field has been the crystalization of the full power of the working people, i.e. People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; but in this field too the necessary study and ground work is so advanced that we are now at the eve of the realization of that objective by the direct participation of the people themselves. In this regard and following the resolution of the recently held 3rd Plenary Session of WPE, one of main and most urgent tasks is the setting up of the Constitution Drafting Commission. While its members will consist of representatives of the party and state, and mass organization, various segments of the society as well as of representatives of religious bodies, it is hoped that the broad based forum it provides will enable it discharge effectively the duty entrusted to it by the people.

As I have earlier noted, the realization of the new state form is the final stage of the unfolding of the new popular order. It is hardly an overstatement to underline the crucial role of the people participating in all stages of the emergence of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, ranging from the drafting of the Constitution down to the last stage of the process.

.../
Unless the working people, with full enjoyment of the favorable condition and democratic rights which the Revolution gave them, properly fashion the new political order, (the executive body of its interest) their wish can never be said to materialize correctly. The bitter class struggle we have gone through have taught us that for the realization of their aspiration the Working People reckon only on their own effort and sacrifice.

Easing vigilance even for a moment is a calculated risk of loosing the edge for the enemy. The enemy, on the other hand will not only shy away from creating confusion or lay in wait for a time to subvert. False sympathy at the propaganda level, remote-controlled violence at the subversive level is the familiar strategy of the enemy. The exercise of vigilance over the enemy and foiling all his machinations is as much the revolutionary duty of the working people as is their participation in the process of the formation of PDRE and in development effort.

The revolutionary army, the invincible popular arm, is as ever on duty to defend and preserve the security of the Revolutionarily Mother Land and pay whatever sacrifice necessary thereto. It is a public knowledge that it is currently teaching a lesson to and administering due punishment to the despicable flankeys of imperialism and reaction, deployed to frustrate our effort towards the formation of the people's republic. The cause of the people is also the cause of the Revolutionary Army, hence its unflinching commitment to the fulfilment of all the targets of the Revolution. Imbued with the lofty ideals and causes of
the people, there can be no force to impede its forward march to repeat today and tomorrow its glorious victories of yesterday. Sustained contact with the people and revolutionary commitment being at the root of its might, it cannot be stopped from fulfilling its duty.

Although the action of aggressors of the inviolability of our sovereignty and territorial integrity forced us to use force, our cherished objective has been and will be to work for peace, development and social progress. War is the anti-thesis of our genuine wish. In order to ward-off this destructive phenomenon, it will be our duty to strengthen all sectors of our armed forces. We will continue to give our attention to this major issue.

As we have repeatedly reiterated, our policy of peaceful co-existence with our neighbours remains unchanged. Based on this policy we have expressed our readiness not only to engage in joint development projects but have also called for a comprehensive cooperation of peoples within the framework of their neighbourliness. None else is better qualified to identify their lasting interest in peace and progress and show more concern for themselves than the peoples themselves. It is their ineludable right to decide about their future. But it is typical of imperialist forces to plot against the rights of peoples anywhere and any time when this advances their interest. With a powerful mass-media net-work at their disposal and masquerading as sympathisers, they are using every conceivable stratagem to disturb peace and create the impression that there can be no development and progress without their aid, in other words, by disarming many peoples of their sense of confidence in themselves. This is not all. They even go to the extent at times of committing subversion and violence through their paid agents.
A number of contemporary examples could be mentioned but the mass massacre of innocent black Africans by the South African apartheid regime will suffice for illustrating the violence. The verdict of history may not be brought in soon enough but it will, certainly. It is in the limelight of the mass media that the black majority in South Africa, held in slavery and suppression for centuries in their own country are fighting in unison to bring about the collapse of the racist domination. Despite the attempts of the racist regime and its allies to ease the popular up-rising now by force now by appealing for calm, the struggle of the masses is nevertheless surging with growing impetus. It is the historic obligation of all force of peace and social progress to aid this genuine liberation struggle. Revolutionary Ethiopia pledges its supports for the struggle providing assistance to the extent of its limits and takes this opportunity to express its stand of firm solidarity.

Dear Compatriots,

Our Motherland has for centuries been the standard bearer of freedom in the African continent. This was not assumed of itself but was the result of the heroic and victorious struggle and the precious sacrifice paid by our forebears. There is no single instance of victoriousness without sacrifice. The present generation has become fully aware of this fact through the struggle is has waged and the sacrifice it has paid in the defence of the Revolutionary Motherland, the national unity and security. Inasmuch as our future course of development is unlikely to differ from the present (i.e. in terms of security) preparedness for all eventualities remains a vital factor.
This generation is entrusted not only with the preservation of the freedom and independence of the Motherland but also hand down to the unborn generation a reliably secure and developed country. To fulfill this objective, the requirement in terms of sacrifice is obviously very high. As if to provide a short-cut to the satisfaction of our desire for peace and progress our enemies along with their easily corruptible allies are insistently testing us to divert us away from our objective. Whatever the pressure, however, the only guarantee is to struggle relentlessly.

In order, therefore, to attain our objective, and completely rid ourselves from the shackles of underdevelopment, let us march forward along the trail blazed for us by the party as we fulfill its guide-lines for fruitful work and struggle in the interest of the country. Let us today work for tomorrow as we live a life commensurate to the resources of our country. To be able to move from a life of scarcity to a balanced life of prosperity, let us employ our resources on technology, mines and on the training of manpower which will insure our development rather than squander them on fast consumable goods.

If we are best on all the sweet taste of life now our own future and that of the unborn generation would be in jeopardy nor can we hope to escape our accountability to history. We should, therefore, live modestly now and redouble our effort for the over-all national development.
The Ethiopian working people have currently undertaking a huge enterprise of building a new society. There can be nothing more of a gratifying experience for one claiming to be principled than rallying himself with the people. All Ethiopians are expected to make their due contribution both in the task of building the new society and in the realisation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

In granting our amnesty, we once again call on our compatriots (who through confusion or coercion had joined the anti-people camp) to take advantage of this opportunity rather than engage in fratricidal killing or roam about as flunkeys of our traditional enemies. As is openly known, our struggle is to work for a better future. Such will also be the duty of those who will positively respond to this call. There are numerous areas of endeavour in which they can participate according to their ability and capability. There is a positive prospect for those willing to work and live with the people while fulfilling what is expected of them.

If we firmly struggle today we shall be the beneficiaries of the good results of the future. It is our belief that we have managed in the year which has just elapsed to achieve great deeds despite the difficult situations of the year before we are certain that we shall successfully achieve our objective also next year, this time with composure and well-planned procedure.
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LETTERS FROM ETHIOPIAN RULERS (Early and Mid-Nineteenth Century)

TITLE: LETTERS FROM ETHIOPIAN RULERS (Early and Mid-Nineteenth Century)
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BINDING: Case
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CONTENTS: The first half of the nineteenth century saw the beginning of what may properly be termed diplomatic communication between the rulers of Ethiopia and European governments, notably the British Government. The period was one of great importance in Ethiopian history, constituting the troubled prelude to the formation of the modern Ethiopian state.

The present collection contains 29 letters (plus an appendix of a further seven documents), beginning with the earliest surviving missive from an Ethiopian ruler to the British Government, Ras Wäldä Sällassë's letter of 1810 to George III. Most of the letters published here date from before 1855 and were sent by various figures: the puppet monarch Sahlä Dängål, and seven provincial rulers, Ras Wäldä Sällassë and Däḥazmač Säbagadis of Tigre, Ras Wäbe of Tigré and Sämen, Ras Ali Alula of Bägemdir, Kings Sahlä Sällassë and Haylå Mälauf of Säwa, and Na'ib Idris of Arkiko. For the sake of completeness a number of letters pertaining to Emperor Tewodros (r. 1855-68) has been included, which were omitted from the earlier volume in the series.

After a short introduction on the chronology and content of the letters, there follow reproductions of the original documents on the left-hand page, with translation into English and detailed annotation on the facing page. The appendix contains an important letter from King Sahlä Sällassë, the only one from that monarch still extant in the original, and now housed in Germany, as well as six short notes from Emperor Tewodros to Yätämännu, his queen at the time of his defeat.

EDITORS: Dr. Appleyard is Lecturer in the Languages of the Horn of Africa at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Dr. Irvine is Reader in Semitic Languages at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Dr. Pankhurst is Librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society, London.

ORDERS TO: The Publications Officer, The British Academy.
EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
SPECIAL REPORT

As was indicated in the different Early Warning System reports issued at various stages of the cropping calendar by the Commission, the 1985 production was the least for years. First, the total failure of rainfall, in rain and crops, which account for about 20% of the country's annual food production was experienced. The total rainfall failure was followed by the failure of the near normal rainfall in the north and several other areas in the south and west. In 1985, the other regions the rainfall were not also characterized with normalities of climate type - late onset, poor or erratic distribution. The situation therefore required other intervention.

The failure of the Nile rain resulted in a very short time for crop preparation and storage for long duration. Crop losses were also very high in locations where farmers followed a long harvest of drought tolerant varieties. This cultivated the normal crops. The 1985 harvest was a result of distant areas planted with crops. The choice of crops was an increase in production with the production of crops in the normal area at 50% of normal.

Erellas, Tigray, Afar and northern shews were the regions worst hit by the crop failure. For most parts of these regions, it was a case of no rain and no production. Food shortages were again recurring in these regions for a number of years. In the years since the 1984-85 crop year, the people have been attempting to alleviate the situation.

April, 1985

EARLY WARNING AND PLANNING SERVICES
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
1. **1984 Meher Harvest**

As was indicated in the different Early Warning System reports issued at various stages of the cropping calendar by the Commission, the 1984 production was the least for years. First, the total failure of the Belg rain and crops, which account for about 20% of the country's annual food production was experienced. The Belg rain failure was followed by the failure of the Meher rain in the north and several other areas in the south and east. In the other regions, the rainfall was also characterized by abnormalities of all kinds - late onset, poor or erratic distribution, its early stoppage therefore its short duration.

The failure of the Belg rain resulted in a very short time available for land preparation and sowing for long duration main season crops. Draft oxen were also weak due to lack of forage and water following a long period of drought, and therefore could not cultivate the normal acreage. They resulted in a reduced planted acreage. Planted crops in some areas failed to establish owing to germination failures resulting from lack of rain after planting, and pest damage. The combined effect of all these was a major decrease in production with the harvest time estimate standing at 40% of normal.

Hello, Tigray, Eritrea and northern Shawa were the regions worst hit by the crop failure. For most parts of these regions it was a year of no rain and no production. Food shortages have been recurring in these regions for a number of years. During these years the people have been attempting to alleviate the shortages through various means, parti-
cularly through purchases by selling their assets including plough oxen. Following the 1984 crop failure these people have been left with no production and no asset for sale. Even for the very few who have something to sell there is nothing to buy in the markets. This has led to the collapse of the food supply system, and death and displacement of a large number of people.

The production shortfall in the usually deficit producing regions of Hararghe, Sidamo, Gamo Gofa, southern Shewe and eastern Gozdet was also significant. Most of these areas, which heavily depend on the production of maize and sorghum and where the crops require up to six months rain were affected by late onset, early cessation as well as by the inadequacy of the rain. Not more than 3 months rain was received in these regions with the rain stopping at the critical heading and grain development stages. The rainfall and the performance of the crops even in the usually surplus producing regions of Arssi, Gojjam and Bale was unfavourable, and no surplus was produced in most of the usual surplus areas of these regions. This has forced a significant portion of the population of these regions to seek assistance. Although not as bad as the other regions production in some areas of Wellega, Keffa and Illubabor was also below the food requirement of the population. It can be said that not even a single region escaped the drought and its adverse effects.

Among the adverse effects of the production shortfalls on the food supply of the country has been the serious supply shortages and abnormal price increases currently observable in all markets of the country. Prices
are increasing at an alarming rate every month, and in some areas it is becoming difficult to get grain in the markets even for higher prices. This is affecting not only the market dependent population but also the cropping population in several regions, which has become market dependent since it has not produced enough. For these people, grain purchasing is becoming extremely difficult.

The following price information from selected markets shows how serious the price increase has become. In most of the markets, the prices in the last three months were more than twice the previous year's prices, and the rate of increase from month to month significant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market (Region)</th>
<th>Price of Teff in Birr/qt.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assella (Arssi)</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debre Markos (Gojjam)</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Akaki (Shoa)</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Awassa (Sidamo)</td>
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<td>Dessie (Mello)</td>
<td>88</td>
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<td>Nekemte (Mellega)</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gonder (Gonder)</td>
<td>54</td>
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</table>

The rain failure had also a serious effect on the pastoral populations of the country, who occupy the lowlands...
of ten of the fourteen regions of the country. The livelihood of the pastoralists entirely depends on their livestock. Animals provide them with milk and meat, and are also regularly exchanged for grain. Rain failure has been very frequent in these areas for a number of years. The failure of the 1994 rains coupled with the previous years rainfailures has also led to the death of thousands of livestock and displacement and death of a large number of people. The urgent need to dispose the animals which survived the drought, which were in poor condition, has also led to a sharp fall in their prices, thus, severely limiting the purchasing power of the population. On the other hand, with the drought in the neighbouring cropping areas, the traditional suppliers of grain, grain supply has been seriously short and prices extremely high. The depletion of the livestock holding of the population and the short-ages and exhorbitant prices of grain have made the food situation of these areas critical.
2. **NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED**

Crop production for the subsistence croppers and livestock production for the pastoralists are the major factors which determine food availability. Intimes of crop and/or rain failures these population groups have developed means of combating food shortages.

For the cropping population, which is about 35% of the total population of the country, grain purchasing in the markets, which is done mainly through the sale of its livestock, plays the major role. When the situation deteriorates the purchase is made by selling other assets including farm implements. As was noted in the various reports issued by the Commission the current famine in the country is not the effect of one year's crop failure alone. It is the cumulative effect of several years crop failures. In fact, there has hardly been a year in the last 10 years when the northern regions produced enough. During these years the people have been attempting to alleviate the food shortages through purchase by selling all types of assets, in addition to the meagre relief food they have been getting. Following the 1964 severe drought these areas are left with no production, no asset for sale, and grain prices in the market beyond the reach of many. This has made a big number of people entirely dependent on relief food.

The current situation in the pastoral areas is also similar. Grain purchasing in the market is a regular feature of the pastoralists' food supply. The only
difference is that unlike the cropping areas, where one season's favourable rain with enough seed and labour can help in making a quick recovery, once animals reserves are depleted recovery takes many years. We will perhaps have thousands of people to feed for a number of years even with a favourable climate.

Our harvest time estimate of the number of people affected by food shortages in the country was 10,750,660 people, out of which 7,223,150 people in the following regions were estimated as the number who will be needing assistance at least for the whole of 1985:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Number of People Needing Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tigray</td>
<td>2,507,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>1,420,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shewa</td>
<td>827,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hararghe</td>
<td>851,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidamo</td>
<td>875,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamo Gofa</td>
<td>632,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonder</td>
<td>106,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gojjam</td>
<td>363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bale</td>
<td>76,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arssi</td>
<td>162,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,223,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Atleast for the time being 7.9 million people is still our estimate of the number of people who will need assistance this year. The remaining 2,327,810 people are expected to attempt to alleviate the shortages through local purchases. The present abnormal conditions in the markets - price rises and supply shortages - are, however, making grain purchasing extremely difficult for these people. The indications we are getting are that these people are being forced to sell more animals, and in some cases even their oxen to be able to purchase grain. With the present price levels it may not take too long before these people exhaust their assets. It is strongly believed that with the present trend, grain prices will reach the level which cannot be afforded by these people during the coming rainy season - as of July - a time even during normal years is characterized by price rises and supply shortages, and this will definitely push these people to seek government assistance. Thus, increasing the number of people needing assistance to over ten million by then. Therefore, preparations must be made as of now to accommodate this additional number. The period assistance will be required will be July - December (6 months). The additional number of people who could need assistance during the coming rainy season will be from the following Regions:

... (see next page)
### Table: Number of People Likely to be Affected by Drought

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Number of People Likely to be Affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amhara</td>
<td>309,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shews</td>
<td>430,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hararghe</td>
<td>265,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonder</td>
<td>497,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamo Gofa</td>
<td>172,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assait</td>
<td>135,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gojjam</td>
<td>27,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidamo</td>
<td>142,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wollo</td>
<td>23,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaffa</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illubabor</td>
<td>73,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bale</td>
<td>2,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,207,510</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **1985 BELG PRODUCTION PROSPECT**

The Belg (small) season which, in most areas, extends from February to June, is an important production season for the high altitude areas of the country. The contribution of the Belg production to the overall annual production varies from area to area. There are areas which entirely produce Belg crops, and others which depend on them for survival to the main harvest. One common feature of most of the Belg producing areas is that one season's production cannot last the population the whole year. This is particularly true of the marginal areas like Wello, northern Shewa and Tigrai and several areas in Harerghe, Sidamo and Gamo Gofa. In a famine year like this one Belg production has a special importance.

For the highlands of Wello, Bale and northern Shewa Belg production accounts for at least fifty percent of the annual food production. There are also areas in Arssi, Tigray, Sidamo and Gamo Gofa which heavily depend on Belg. Although not significant, these crops are also grown in areas of Harerghe, Keffa, Illubabor and Wellega. No Belg Crop is grown in Gojjam, Gonder and Eritrea.

We have noted earlier that the 1984 drought started with the total failure of the Belg rain. This year, although late, the rain has started in almost all crop production regions of the country.

In the north—Wello, Tigrai, northern Shewa—the season normally starts earlier—in January. This year, the rain started in the 2nd week of March, and this has delayed the timely planting of the crops. Even the rain
which came late was generally not adequate. Most of the northern areas reported only 2-4 days rain in March and the amount was over fifty percent less than the normal. Only a few areas reported Belg planting. In the remaining areas the rain was inadequate for planting. The inadequacy of the seed aid distributed and shortages of plough oxen have also hampered agricultural activities seriously. Late planting also means extended rainy period is required, which, as our past experience tells, is unlikely. Therefore, whatever the rain in the forthcoming months is a favourable harvest is not expected in the northern regions. The situation in Harerghe and Arssi was also similar, with several areas reporting inadequate rain and shortages of seed. This poor performance of the Belg crons in these areas could further increase the number of people who will need assistance.

In the southern regions of Sidamo, Gamo Gofa and Bale, the overall rainfall condition was reported as favourable. Shortages of seed in areas of Keffa and livestock (oxen) death due to disease in Wellega and Keffa were also reported, and these have affected agricultural activities.

Although major agricultural activity which takes place during the Belg season is the planting of Maize and Sorghum, the long duration main season crop's. These crops account for over thirty five percent of the country's annual food production. The unfavourable March rain in the northern regions as well as in Harerghe coupled with the shortages of seed and plough
oxen have seriously affected the land preparation and timely planting of the crops. This includes the non-Belg producing regions of Gonder and Eritrea. Since these areas are among the regions currently facing serious food shortages, timely delivery of adequate seed and plough oxen is imperative, so that at least late planting could be possible. Shortages of seed and plough oxen were also reported in most of the remaining regions and urgent action is needed.
Rehabilitation in Welo & Shoa
Two PA's, food for work, terracing,
Afforesting catchment rehab, small
roads, gully control, check dams,
contour bunds, farm ponds, spring dest.
14 target areas - Sub. catchment Welo
25,000 adults
650,000 people to benefit

14 target areas - Sub. catchment Shoa


costed separately - most exp. 116,625 ha
least - 1,600 ha
(50,000 bm, ner country food)

Welo - 1,7 m. bin - 67,600 ha 2yr
1.2 3yr 7,000 ha


500 people resettled
New project 200 into next yr.
1,2 3yr


Seed production centres
Improved strains in Dale Harera

More work on ident storage of agronomists

RRC 1,600 Bm of 1300

LWF

+ Oxen
A year ago, Ethiopia became a household word. The agony and humiliation of slow deaths from famine became public property; Ethiopians realized that they had become the beggars on a global scale. A new kind of sensationalism was born: photographers vied with each other to catch the most appalling, and therefore the most moving images. The typical famine victim was a child on the point of death, the typical Ethiopian adult helpless, apathetic, dependent on kindness from strangers.