



Schwerpunktthema Nichtregierungsorganisationen in Äthiopien

von Gebre Mariam Asgedom

Activities and actions performed by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have a long history in Ethiopia. Many different aspects of this topic, therefore, can be discussed. In this article I would like to concentrate on the relationships of NGOs with the government and among themselves.

Even though organizations were not known by the name of NGOs, many activities have been organized in an NGO-like manner. One of the Ethiopian traditional institutions which could be called an NGO is the "Idir", but nowadays it is called a Local Voluntary Association (LVA). An "Idir" is organized by a small community in order to assist its members, financially or materially, in case of

unforeseen problems, like a funeral. It already started to be important at the end of the nineteenth century and it is still functioning.

LVAs in Ethiopia, as elsewhere, are initiated by community-based groups, which are organized regionally or on a village level or at work places. They have a simple and often flexible administrative structure and are administered by a popularly elected organ. They are not formed and in some cases not even recognized by the Ethiopian government.

Despite a long history and a large number of LVAs present in the country and despite their clear representation of the community from which they originated, almost nothing is done by the international donor community to encourage

them or to recognize their potential as development agents. This may be caused by the fact that LVAs have always functioned within and for a small community and have never depended on external support. Therefore, the members of LVAs have until now hardly ever applied for funds from financing organizations.

The international donor organizations from their side, have never turned to these locally organized groups, because they have always been very busy in supporting organizations which did ask for its assistance. Besides this, the donors for a long period of time, have been organizing in such a top-down manner that it never came across the existence of LVAs. Only recently it has become "fashionable" to look at the so-called grassroots level.

NGOs in the current definition as development agents do not have a long history in Ethiopia. The policy of the previous government did not favour the existence of NGOs and, as a result, there was not much room for the operation of local NGOs in the country. Only a few international organizations were working in drought affected areas, especially at the peak of the 1973 and 1984-85 famines. They were expected to concentrate on relief assistance only.

After the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic

Aktuell

Der Konflikt zwischen Äthiopien und Eritrea verschärft sich

Als Deutsch-Äthiopischer Verein möchten wir ausdrücklich betonen, daß uns beide Staaten sehr am Herzen liegen und wir weit davon entfernt sind, in irgendeiner Form Partei in diesem Krieg zu ergreifen.

Wir bedauern zutiefst, daß die Regierungen beider Länder offensichtlich nicht in der Lage sind, auf friedlichem Wege die entstandenen Streitigkeiten zu schlichten. Die Leidtragenden werden wie immer die Menschen in Äthiopien und Eritrea sein, denen ein sicherer Neuanfang nach der Ära des Bürgerkriegs so sicher schien.

Berichte über den Konflikt sind zu finden auf der Seite 6 (Artikel von Monika und Georg Kopf) sowie ab Seite 8 (Nachrichten zusammengestellt von Harmen Storck). Die letzten Meldungen vor Redaktionsschluß kann man auf Seite 22 nachlesen.

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Front (EPRDF) seized power, it installed a new policy regarding the mode of operation of NGOs which initiated the mushrooming of indigenous and international NGOs in the country.

According to the 1996 report of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC), there are two hundred forty five NGOs of which one hundred and one are indigenous. These NGOs are encouraged to focus on development assistance to communities rather than providing relief, which was the case during the past regime.

The new policy intended to comply with the new political, economic and social changes that the government brought about. The national policy on disaster prevention and preparedness was endorsed in July 1995. The DPPC became the focal point in the registration process of NGOs. It is stated in the National Policy on Disaster Prevention Management (NPDPM) that the DPPC is the only mandated government agency to register, monitor and co-ordinate NGOs working in Ethiopia (chapter 6.1.4).

According to this policy, international and local NGOs should reach an agreement with the DPPC in which they present their project proposals, their funding sources, a description of their budget, the area of operation and the like. NGOs are required to make known their objectives, to submit their periodic and annual reports to the DPPC. They have also to adhere to the general policy of the government regarding NGO operation. A certificate of registration is issued after the approval of the project proposal and then the agreement between the NGOs and the DPPC is signed.

This policy made possible for the government to control NGO

activities. It facilitated to stay informed about the various interactions between donor agencies and funds-receiving local NGOs. It seems that the EPRDF does not appreciate the fact that a lot of money and resources are directed towards local NGOs within the country, without it having any influence on that. To be able to direct the flow of money into a way it desires, it requires from international organizations to co-operate with local organizations which it can indeed influence. Especially in Tigray this is the case. As a result, the international agencies end up in being sponsors of local, government-directed projects and programmes.

Furthermore, the process of regulation and registration of NGOs engaged in such activities as civic education and human rights education, are mostly denied recognition. This is because they are perceived as having "political" goals or as having programmes that potentially challenge the political dominance of the ruling party and the related government programmes. Therefore, such associations are considered as operating against the law. The 1960 civic code of Ethiopia (which is still functional) also denies recognition of NGOs having a programme of such activities (Human Rights Watch/Africa, December 1997).

Currently, the mandate of registering NGOs is shifted from the DPPC to the Ministry of Justice. The DPPC has become a body to co-ordinate and evaluate NGO activities. The DPPC and the Ministry of Justice, however, are not the only government bodies, which have influence on the situation for NGOs in daily practice. Various ministries, like for instance the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, have to deal in different ways with NGO activities. For instance, when an NGO is active in agriculture, the regional bureau of agriculture in co-operation with the local administrative body set the priority.

Many government bodies are involved in monitoring and evaluation of NGO activities. As a consequence, NGOs have to meet

the requirements from the various agents of which none takes into consideration what is expected from the other. Related to this, project proposals always have to fit into the prepared plans of the various actors. In theory, the most decisive actors should be the beneficiaries of the projects. Actually, priority is set top-down. The influence of a community is extremely limited. Even when a community would profit a lot from a specific project, the proposal will not be approved when it does not comply with the general (national or regional) plans of its donors as well as of the Ethiopian government.

The fact that local and international NGOs have to manage to keep many actors satisfied simultaneously creates also an administrative problem. Local NGOs are obliged to write quarterly reports to the line department concerned, to the zonal office of the government, to the regional government, and to the donors. As it is known, most local NGOs have more than five donors at the same time funding different projects. Therefore, they are expected to write about their activities in many different ways. Local NGOs, inherently, do not possess the manpower to meet these requirements. NGOs have to concentrate on report writing in their head offi-



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ces in the regional or national capital towns instead of implementing projects, which usually takes place in rural areas. Most donor agencies prefer to fund projects for communities to paying wages of employees of local NGOs. This leads to misuse of money, since local NGOs are forced to deduct money from projects in order to use it for an administrative purpose.

On top of the policy problems described above, it is a problem for NGOs that donors as well as governmental bodies regularly change their policies. Consequently, strange occurrences happen. For instance, NGOs are sometimes not aware to which government body they should report about their activities.

NGOs from their side are not always following their initial project proposals either. At the time of registration they enter a contract to finalize the project within a given period of time. Officially, once the projects are "finalized", NGOs have to hand it over to the government line department concerned. However, one hardly ever finds finalized projects. Rather, a name and the functions are changed in order to increase the duration. In most cases, NGOs receive an unlimited flow of funds for their projects from international funding agencies, without any problems of importance, as long as they are reliable to write reports as expected by the donor and provide acceptable project proposals. Somebody told me, that blaming the government was already sufficient as a pretext to receive funds from international donors for an extra period of time.

It is common to hear official criticisms from the government media regarding the activities of NGOs. In 1995 and 1996 the government took a major step towards the closure of NGO offices. The government withdrew work permissions of about fifty NGOs. At the time, the government gave reasons such as that the NGOs were not working according to their mutual agreement or that there existed a contradiction between the amount of funds they received

for a certain project and the actual outcome.

The attitude of the government towards NGOs and on the other hand, of NGOs towards the government, of course, has an impact on the relationship between various NGOs themselves. Under strenuous conditions, one should expect NGOs to co-operate in order to be able to take a strong position vis-à-vis the government's policy. This is not the case. Often, NGOs are afraid that in case they would co-operate, they might be considered as subversive organizations by the government. This would mean, that they run the risk of not being accepted as a development agent anymore. Therefore, the relationship among NGOs is based more on competition than on co-operation. Competition takes place over access to projects areas allocated by the government and over funds.

In short, NGOs in Ethiopia have to deal more with requirements from their donors as well as from their government than from their beneficiaries.

of the private sector in all sectors of economic development. The government's development strategy, termed as Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI), focuses on a growth in the agriculture sector sufficient to provide surplus for investment in industrializing the economy. The five-year development program proposed a rapid improvement in the productivity of the agricultural sector based on increased use of productivity-enhancing technology, through efficient input delivery systems and effective output markets.

An important element of the government agricultural development strategy is its continued involvement in fertilizer marketing and the promotion of the use of improved inputs by the smallholder producers. This was initiated by Sasakawa 2000 (also known as SG 2000) program in 1993 and subsequently adopted by the government since 1995. The program involves demonstration of a package of improved inputs (improved seed, fertilizer and agrochemicals) on what are known as Extension

RETHINKING AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND STRATEGY IN ETHIOPIA: FRAMING FOR DISCUSSION

By Getachew Abate

Ethiopian agriculture suffers from a highly degraded natural resource base that is characterized by soil erosion, deforestation, pasture degradation, erratic rainfall and ground or surface water depletion. The poor performance of the agriculture sector over the past few decades, coupled with recurrent droughts, has caused significant losses in human lives, decumulation of capital and increasing dependence on food aid. Given this situation, current efforts at agricultural transformation in Ethiopia occur within the context of the New Economic Policy of November 1991 which emphasizes free-market ideals and enhanced role

Management Training Plots (EMTP). The size of the EMTPs is a half hectare and adjacent farmers can join their plots to form an EMTP if they can not meet the half hectare requirement on their own. Farmers are expected to graduate after one production season from the program and continue using the technology thus acquired without further assistance except regular advices of extension agents. Since 1995 the government also launched the New Extension Program (NEP) funded and managed independently of the SG 2000 program, but based on SG principles.

The feasibility and sustainability of the current government attempt to

expand the program to higher number of farmers was questioned by many, including SG 2000 because of the high costs of the program and limited fund availability (Daniel Molla et al, 1998). Despite this argument, until now both the SG and NEP programs are considered to be a success. Grain production over the past few years has reached high levels. Good weather, increased availability and use of purchased inputs by farmers and the effectiveness of the new extension system are assumed to contribute to this result. Although no formal analysis has been carried out to determine the productivity and farm-level profitability of the programs, some preliminary micro-survey results indicate partial yield and income gains from the use of the new technologies.

One major setback of the new package is its weakness to be farming-system or agroecological-zone oriented. The high-input technology is sought to be expanded in all agroecological zones. Since the technology focuses on single commodities, maize and tef being the foci of both the SG and NEP program, and converts the land use system to monocropping, in better-off agricultural zones where farmers practice intensive mixed and inter-crop farming, the program may result in the loss of biodiversity and deterioration of the local potential which can contribute to sustainable agricultural development. For example, intensive inter-cropping practices are widespread in the Western and Southern part of the country and farmers in these areas pursue complex strategies for producing food and earning their livelihoods. Being low-input agriculture, this complex cropping system not only raises farm productivity by maintaining soil fertility, but also serves as a biological reserve for many indigenous food and nonfood species used and traded by the local population. Since the new technology can not meet the complex, location-specific requirements in such areas, it may not be compatible with the local agroecological con-

ditions and existing livelihood systems.

Past agricultural development strategies, in particular the green revolution, has predominantly emphasized irrigated and high-potential rainfed lands in an attempt to increase food production and stimulate economic growth. In areas of poor soils and erratic rainfall, the green revolution was not successful. This implies that such packages with improved crop germplasm would not work in fertility depleted soils. Most of the Ethiopian agriculture, except some pocket fertile areas, is characterized by very poor soil condition and inadequate rainfall or water supply for farming. In such riskier areas with less reliable rainfall and poor soils, the agroecological-zone unadjusted technology may expose the smallholders to too much risk.

From past experiences of other countries (Pingali and Rosegrant, 1998), intensification in cereal monoculture can also lead to a long-term decline in cereal crop productivity. These declining productivity trends are associated with the ecological consequences of intensive monoculture systems, such as declining soil nutrient status, increased soil toxicities, increased pest buildup, especially of soil pests, etc. Unless the technology is designed and used with the benefit of modern ecological knowledge, in the medium and long-run it can also be environmentally sensitive. For example, too often, over the past thirty years, the technologies accompanying the green revolution have turned out to have adverse environmental effects. The heavy use of pesticides has caused severe problems. There is growing human health problem while, at the same time, pest populations are becoming resistant and escaping from natural control. In the intensively farmed lands of both the developed and developing countries, heavy fertilizer applications are producing nitrate levels in drinking water that approach or exceed permitted levels, increas-

ing the likelihood of government restrictions on fertilizer use.

There is no question, in effect, countries like Ethiopia require a green revolution, a revolution that is even more productive than the first green revolution and more green in terms of conserving natural resources and the environment. This proposition makes it clear that there is certainly no case for abandoning technology. But, when it comes to the existing agricultural intensification policy and strategy in Ethiopia, it needs to be refined so as to reduce or mitigate its deleterious effects. This means, adequate attention should be given to understanding and responding to the physical, biological and ecological consequences of the intensification program. Adequate strategies must be designed so that the technology should not contribute to the declining sustainability of the various eco-systems.

Given the above situation, the overall approach of the agricultural policy in Ethiopia should follow a sustainable agriculture which is one that improves agricultural production, enhances the environment quality and the resource base on which agriculture depends, raises economic viability, and enhances the quality of life of farmers and society as a whole. This can be met by exploiting recent developments in modern sciences which include the emergence of modern ecology, a powerful discipline that is rapidly increasing our understanding of the structure and dynamics of agricultural and natural ecosystems and providing clues to their productive and sustainable management.

Some of the policy options that require rethinking and a change in the conceptualization of agricultural development in Ethiopia include the following:

The need for differentiation of agricultural intensification strategies: The agricultural intensification strategy need to be tailored to local agroclimatic conditions, and to the type of development pathway that

the local communities are following. In most of the regions, in particular, in the North, Northwest, Northeast and Eastern part of Ethiopia, where very fragile soils and high climatic risk dominate, the strategy of agricultural development need to be different from the high-potential areas of the South, Southwest and West. Because of their poor infrastructure, low yield response and climate risk, the intensive use of modern inputs like fertilizers is unlikely to be economic in many of these areas. Thus, agricultural development strategy in these areas need to be based on new or improved paradigms for sustainable development. The strategy mainly need to step back from narrow commodity approaches and take a holistic approach to raise productivity and improve resource management practices at the farm and landscape levels. These may need to include: management at the watershed level of water catchment and use, and soil erosion control; improved soil moisture and fertility management, including crop rotations and intercropping, and better integration of farm trees into cropping systems to generate and recycle plant nutrients; and more rational exploitation of favorable niches in the landscape for production of high value crops and trees. Focusing on high-value crops such as vegetables or tree crops may also need to be given a policy priority.

Land policy: The rules and regulations about the use of land and access to it have direct implications for agricultural development. Any consideration of sustainable agricultural development must give recognition to those who have rights to use and have access to land. This involves mainly the need to distinguish land to be owned and used by individual farmers, land in state (public) ownership, and land that is to be held by local communities and groups in various forms of social organizations. Farmers in Ethiopia especially need tenure security and assured long-term access to land if they are to pursue sustainable farming practices and to make long term

investments in improving and conserving resources (e.g. high-value tree planting, continuous manuring, and terracing and contouring for soil and moisture conservation).

Water and irrigation policy: Water resources in Ethiopia are both scarce and subject to degradation. Institutional reforms and strategies are required to develop irrigation schemes, watershed programs or ponds that capture runoff from rainfall at the communal or village level. Policies and strategies should also involve the institutional and legal environment on the use and allocation of water resources (both ground and surface water), water rights monitoring processes, financing mechanisms for management and administration or governance structures, etc.

Appropriate policy and strategy toward biodiversity conservation: Since biodiversity is important for the functioning of all ecosystems, measures towards its conservation should be considered as part and parcel of the agricultural development process. It is well known that Ethiopia is one of the very few countries which are home of genetic diversity for many plant species. Since most cultivated crop varieties contain genetic material from wild relatives, or from crops still used by the small farmers, the plant genetic resource in Ethiopia is important in providing the raw materials for desirable genetic traits in many crops. This resource has been used in Ethiopia and in many other countries to improve productivity, induce better resistance to pests, or to improve adaptation to harsh environments. A very simple example could be the use of Ethiopian barley to protect Californian barley from dwarf yellow virus, valued at \$160 million per year (Perrings, 1998).

Productivity increases associated with the green revolution have been associated with the abandonment of traditional varieties that have been bred over thousands of years. These landraces have been a major source of genetic diversity in agriculture, but many have dis-

appeared with the green revolution. Loss of biodiversity or deletion of species would cause not only local costs but can also result in global extinction of a given species. In Ethiopia, although there is a gene bank with a very limited capacity, it is still commonplace to ignore biodiversity in designing a development strategy. As mentioned above, the new monocrop-based intensification program may cause loss of

biodiversity in many parts of the country. Because of these effects, the intensification strategy should be accompanied by a set of strategies designed to minimize adverse biodiversity impacts. In addition, appropriate strategies need to be designed in order to develop sustainable protected areas. With their great species diversity, for example, protected forests or other protected areas can be potential sources of agricultural crops (especially for agro-forestry), new genetic materials, plants useful for regenerating rangelands that have been overgrazed, and biological controls. In addition to the benefits to agriculture provided by the high quality and relatively predictable supplies of water produced by many protected areas, more direct benefits to the agricultural sector can also be significant. Thus agricultural policy in Ethiopia need to put increasing emphasis on the development of state (public) owned protected areas, parks, wildlife preserves, forests, grazing areas, etc., at the national, regional, zonal and community or village level.

Changing paradigms of education, research, and extension: Much of the above discussion has important implications for institutional arrangements in agricultural development. As the perception of agricultural development strategies change, the traditional institutional arrangements in education, research and extension also need to undergo both operational and structural change. New areas in agricultural sciences like modern ecology, sustainable agriculture, organic farming, integrated pest management, natural resource

management, agri-business management, etc., are some of the disciplines that need to be integrated in the education, research, and extension programs. Agricultural research needs to be, not commodity-oriented, but more system-oriented, more multidisciplinary, more site specific and more responsive to farmer and community needs. The existing agricultural extension system, which is partly restructured to serve the needs of potential areas that are efficient at promoting the new technologies, is much less

DER ÄTHIOPISCH-ERITREISCHE GRENZKONFLIKT

von Monika und Georg Kopf

able to deliver the kinds of multidisciplinary, farmer and natural resource management oriented service needed in many parts of the country. The

focus of extension should thus ought to be based on a holistic rather than a commodity approach to raise farm productivity and secure long term management of the agricultural resource base. All this requires a seamless interface between education, research and extension which is the key to successful agricultural development. In conclusion in order to raise agricultural productivity, policy makers in Ethiopia still need to pursue appropriate and sustainable methods of agricultural intensification for both high and low-potential areas.

References:

Daniel Molla et al, 1997. Designing Strategies to Support a Transformation of Agriculture in Ethiopia. Working paper 4, Grain Market Research project, Addis Ababa.

Perrings, C. 1998. The Economics of Biodiversity Loss and Agricultural Development in Low Income Countries. University of York, Unpublished Research Paper.

Pingali, P. and Rosegrant, M.W. 1998. Intensive Food Systems in Asia: Can the Degradation Problems be Reversed? Unpublished Research Paper.

Einführung einer Grenzkommission (Januar 98 – Mai 98).

Weitere kleine Grenzkonflikte
Ab 6.Mai bewaffnete Grenzkonflikte
Am 8.Mai Besetzung des umstrittenen Gebietes durch eritreisches Militär.
Vertreibung von gegnerischen Nationalitäten
Politische Einigungsversuche durch die USA und Ruanda
Ausweitung des Konfliktes, Bombardierung gegnerischer Städte (Asmara, Mekele)
Schlichtungsversuche durch die OAU und UN
Eritrea hält weiterhin das Gebiet besetzt (Status quo)

Problembeschreibung

Wie soll man über dieses Durcheinander die Übersicht behalten, wo sogar Experten der einzelnen Länder sprachlos sind.

Wir beide, die Schreiber dieses Artikels, sind keine Experten. Unser Wissen über diesen Konflikt ist allgemeiner Art, was aus Presse, Rundfunk und Fernsehen in Deutschland bekannt geworden ist.

Jedoch... wir haben uns seit ca. 25 Jahren immer wieder mit der politischen Situation beider Länder befaßt und seither intensive Kontakte sowohl zu äthiopischen als auch zu eritreischen Freunden gepflegt. Die ideale Voraussetzung also, die jetzige Problematik so unparteiisch als möglich zu beleuchten.

Da wir zu zweit sind, lag es nahe, daß jeder von uns die Position eines Landes vertritt, die Pluspunkte seines Landes aufzählt und in einer Abschlusdiskussion diese Pluspunkte in die Waagschale wirft.

Trotzdem, es war nicht einfach, beiden Seiten gerecht zu werden und wir lehnen jegliche Verantwortung ab, sollte uns irgendein eingefleischter Bekenner einer Seite an die Karre fahren wollen. Wie heißt es doch so schön: "Zum Streiten gehören immer zwei!" Zum Schluß noch einen überschwenglichen Dank an den DÄV (vor allem an Lutz), der uns diese Sache eingebrockt hat!

INHALT

Wie es zum Konflikt kam
Problembeschreibung
Sichtung der vorhandenen Literatur
Pro Äthiopien
Pro Eritrea
Gemeinsamkeiten
Diskussion
Wie geht's weiter?

Wie es während der letzten Jahre zum Konflikt kam

Äthiopien entschied sich gegen die Assab-Ölraffinerie und nahm Verbindung mit dem Djibouti-Hafen auf.
Äthiopien erlaubte nicht die Eröffnung der eritreischen "Horn International Bank" innerhalb Äthiopiens.
Eritrea führte eine eigene Währung ein (Nakfa).
Erste kleinere Grenzkonflikte in der Badime-Area

Sichtung der Materialien

I Unser eigenes, lückenhaftes Wissen aus Presse, Funk und Fernsehen (Badische Zeitung, Spiegel, SWR und ARD)

II Pro-äthiopische Veröffentlichungen

“Situation report of Irob people, living in the affected area.” Von Abba Hakos, Mekelle University College vom 03.09.98

Statement by the Irob community in North America, vom 25.06.98

So schnell vergißt man einen Krieg, von Dr. Ann Waters-Bayer, vom 04.08.98

A breach of trust, von Dr. Yilma Belay, vom 7.10.98

The grave danger of illusions about Eritrea / Remarks of the conflict, von Wray Witten, vom 02.10.98

III Pro-eritreische Veröffentlichungen

Aus den Dokumentationsheft “Informationen zum Grenzkonflikt Eritrea / Äthiopien” (Hrg. Eritrea Hilfswerk Deutschland, vom Juli 98). Darin:

Meinungsbeiträge von Toni Lochner, Martin Zimmermann, Wolbert Schmidt, David Hirst
Beiträge aus Africa Confidential und Le Monde diplomatique

Auszüge aus dem Interview mit dem eritreischen Präsidenten Issayas Afewerki, vom 14.5.98

Kartenmaterial über die aktuelle Grenzlage des Konfliktgebietes, erstellt durch die GTZ (siehe oben)
Politische Dokumente: Briefwechsel der Präsidenten, Politische Erklärungen beider Seiten sowie Erklärungen der OAU und UN.

Pro-Äthiopien (Moni)

Durch Einführung einer eigenen Währung verursacht Eritrea wirtschaftliche Spannungen

Beide Seiten geben zu, daß die Grenze strittig ist.

Die Grenzen sind zwar international festgelegt, aber selbst während der Kolonialzeit wurden Volksgruppen (Irob) auf eritreischer Seite nicht kolonialisiert.

Äthiopien will friedliche Lösung (Einsetzung einer Grenzkommission)

Äthiopien meidet Hafen Assab, was zu Spannungen führt

Eritrea besetzt umstrittenes Gebiet, Beginn des Grenzkonfliktes

Bombardierung der äthiopischen Städte Mekele und Adigrat durch Eritrea

Häuser, Hab und Gut sowie das Leben der Bauern wird von Eritreern bedroht. Flucht der Bauern, Kirchenplünderungen und Tote im Konfliktgebiet

Straßenblockaden und Behinderung des öffentlichen Lebens durch Eritrea

Eritrea war vorher schon kriegerisch aktiv, z.B. gegen den Jemen

Pro-Eritrea (Georg)

Äthiopien löste den Konflikt aus, durch das Verbot der eritreischen “Horn International Bank”

Äthiopien ignorierte den Hafen Assab und orientierte sich nach Djibouti.

Durch international anerkannte Grenze (Kolonialgrenze) liegt umstrittenes Gebiet eindeutig in Eritrea

Wirtschaftliche Abhängigkeit von Äthiopien.

Größenunterschied Äthiopien / Eritrea, dadurch Eritrea politisch im Nachteil

Streit innerhalb der äthiopischen Föderation (TPLF mit äthiop. Präsidenten) wegen der Grenzverläufe.

Äthiopischer Ministerpräsident steht unter innenpolitischem Druck wegen der Eigenständigkeit Eritreas.

Äthiopien (Tigray) hat sich schleichend ausgedehnt über die koloniale Grenze hinweg, ohne daß Eritrea zunächst reagiert hat.

Eritrea mußte diese Ausdehnung unterbinden.

Falsche Reaktion von Äthiopien durch Deportation und Enteignung von in Äthiopien lebenden Eritreern

Bombardierung des Flughafens Asmara durch äthiopische Luftwaffe.

Internationale Gemeinschaft unterstützt eher Äthiopien als Eritrea.

Gemeinsamkeiten

Die Grenze ist nach Meinung beider Seiten strittig und muß verhandelt werden

Beide Seiten wollten friedliche Lösung (Einsetzung einer Grenzkommission)

Beide haben eine Regierung mit militärischem Hintergrund.

Beide wollten wirtschaftlich zusammenarbeiten.

Eritrea und Tigray waren Waffenbrüder im Kampf gegen die Mengistu-Regierung

Diskussion

Moni (M): Du mußt zugeben, Georg, daß nach den ersten Berichten in der Tageszeitung, kurz nach dem bewaffneten Konflikt, es nicht gut aussah für Eritrea. Es wurde doch von der internationalen Gemeinschaft eindeutig als schuldiger Aggressor eingestuft.

Georg (G): Ja, das muß ich zugeben. Anfänglich war ich der gleichen Meinung und dachte bei mir, daß das Kriegsspielen für eine kriegsgewohnte Regierung doch einfacher ist, als Probleme auf diplomatischem Wege anzugehen.

M: Ich bin nach wie vor der Meinung, daß die Eritreer plötzlich durchgedreht sind und einfach losgeschlagen haben, um Terrain zu gewinnen.

G: Nein, der Meinung bin ich ganz und gar nicht. Inzwischen ist mir, nach dem Studium der vorliegenden Materialien klar, daß sich die Situation nicht plötzlich ergeben hat. Es war eine Folge von Spannung und Mißverständnissen, die schon einige Zeit zurückreicht.

M: Kannst du das präzisieren, welche Spannungen meinst du genau? Der eritreische Akt am 6. Mai war doch für alle eine große Überraschung, selbst für einige eritreische Freunde.

G: Der bewaffnete Angriff war eine

Überraschung, das gebe ich ja zu, aber vielleicht hat auch niemand im Schlafe daran gedacht, daß einst befreundete Waffenbrüder im gemeinsamen Kampf gegen das Mengistu-Regime plötzlich gegeneinander kämpfen. Nein, für mich ist es klar, daß die Ursache schon früher zu suchen ist, z.B. gab es enorme wirtschaftliche Spannungen zwischen den beiden Ländern, als es klar war, daß Eritrea eine eigene Währung hervorbrachte oder als Äthiopien mehr und mehr Waren über den Hafen von Djibouti anstatt über Assab importierte.

M: Gut, Spannungen gibt es zwischen den meisten Ländern, die wirtschaftlich miteinander zu tun haben, das ist noch lange kein Grund, sich gegenseitig tot zu schießen.

G: Das sehe ich auch so, aber es ist doch verständlich, daß bei einer weiteren Komplikation, wie es der Grenzkonflikt um Badime darstellt, solche vorausgehenden Mißstimmungen eine Rolle spielen. Und auch bei diesem Grenzkonflikt gab es schon frühere Anzeichen von Uneinigkeit.

M: Aber warum denn? Es ist für mich klar, daß Eritrea plötzlich äthiopisches Gebiet besetzte. Denke doch einmal an die dort lebenden Irob, die eindeutig gegen die eritreische Invasion sind.

G: Von "äthiopischem Gebiet" kann wohl nicht die Rede sein. Wir sind uns ja einig, daß beide Seiten den Grenzverlauf als strittig ansehen. Das besagte Gebiet war unter äthiopischer Verwaltung, die international anerkannte Grenze weist dieses Gebiet jedoch eindeutig als eritreisches Gebiet aus. Aber wir sollten nicht den selben Fehler machen und uns über strittige Grenzen streiten!

M: Doch darüber muß man natürlich streiten, nur eben mit probaten Mitteln und nicht mit der "Holzhammermethode", so wie es Eritrea letztendlich getan hat!

G: Womit wir wieder bei meiner ersten Aussage angelangt sind.

Auch dieser bewaffnete Konflikt hatte seinen Ursprung in früheren Begebenheiten. Nicht umsonst wurde von beiden Seiten eine Grenzkommission gebildet, die den Grenzverlauf klären sollte.

M: Weshalb hat dann Eritrea das Ergebnis dieser Kommission nicht abgewartet, warum hat es die kriegerische Lösung einer politischen Lösung vorgezogen? Das will ich nicht kapieren!

G: Ich gebe zu, daß das eine widersprüchliche Entscheidung ist. Ich kann es mir nur so vorstellen: "die Eritreer waren es plötzlich Leid, daß äthiopische Miliz im besagten Gebiet eritreische Staatsbürger (manchmal auch mit Waffengewalt) gegängelt hat.

M: Gut, es kam zum Schlimmsten. Über die weiteren Eskalationen beider Seiten braucht man ja wohl nicht zu diskutieren. Das eine ergibt das andere und da haben sich wohl beide Seiten nicht gerade rühmlich hervorgetan. Bombardierungen gegnerischer Städte, Vertreibungen der jeweils anderen Nationalitäten und, und, und... Aber wie denkst du über die Vermittlungsbemühungen der internationalen Gemeinschaft, USA, Ruanda, OAU und UN?

G: Ich denke, es wurde das Mögliche getan, was man von außerhalb zu tun vermag. Immerhin muß die Internationale Gemeinschaft so tun, als ob sie neutral wäre. Obschon ich manchmal den Verdacht hege, daß zumindest die USA mehr auf der Seite der Äthiopier steht.

M: Wie kommst du darauf? Die USA hat sich doch zusammen mit Ruanda sehr neutral verhalten und auch neutrale Vorschläge gemacht. Wobei übrigens Äthiopien mit den Vorschlägen einverstanden war, Eritrea aber weitere Vorbedingungen gestellt hat.

G: Eritrea versucht politisch einen Weg des "Self reliance" und ist deshalb kein leichter Partner für die USA oder auch anderer Länder. Darum auch die Vorsicht gegenüber sogenannten Unpartei-

ischen. Aber selbst die USA und Ruanda, wie später auch die OAU und die UN mußten einsehen, daß diese Grenzproblematik nicht so einfach ist. Deshalb ist auch der von der internationalen Gemeinschaft vorgeschlagene Weg, die umstrittene Zone zu entmilitarisieren und auf jede weitere kriegerische Auseinandersetzung zu verzichten, richtig.

M: Wobei sich Eritrea noch nicht zurückgezogen hat und das Gebiet weiterhin besetzt hält. Dies ist auch der Status quo bis heute! Was sollte deiner Meinung nach weiter passieren?

Wie geht's weiter?

G: Auch ich denke, daß dieser Konflikt für beide Seiten ein Schock gewesen ist und sich beide von einer neuen, nicht so angenehmen Seite kennenlernen mußten. Meine Hoffnung ist, daß sich Äthiopien und Eritrea nun an einen Tisch setzen, sich beide als gleichberechtigte Partner ansehen und alle weiteren, zwangsweise auf sie zukommende Probleme, in pragmatischer, aber friedlicher Weise angehen werden.

M: Auch ich wünsche mir das, würde aber gerne zusätzlich die internationale Gemeinschaft in die Pflicht nehmen, den beiden Ländern, die ja noch ganz am Anfang eines demokratischen Weges stehen, jede mögliche Hilfestellung dazu zu geben.

G: Ich nehme an, Eritrea will den für sich geschaffenen positiven Verhandlungsspielraum nicht verlieren, ist sonst aber bereit, in Verhandlung mit Äthiopien zu treten. Was auch, meiner Meinung nach, die einzig richtige Alternative bei dieser verfahrenen Situation darstellt. Dabei sollten die Kontrahenten sich aber nicht nur auf das Grenzproblem beschränken.

M: Der Meinung bin ich auch. h-zwischen dürfte es beiden Ländern klar sein, daß sie sich gegenseitig brauchen. Es muß ein Weg gefunden werden, auf welche Weise auch immer, wie die anstehenden Probleme friedlich zu

Nachrichten aus Äthiopien

zusammengestellt von Harmen Storck aus „Seven days update“

1. Conflict with Eritrea

Harbour Issues

December 21, 1998: A joint Ethio-Djibouti committee has been formed to oversee the movement of goods to and from -Djibouti port and to seek solutions to traffic congestion. It was reported that the next few months will see more traffic congestion at the port (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 17*).

November 23, 1998: The Economic Community of East and Central African Countries (COMESA) is going to form a fact-finding committee to probe into the seizure of Ethiopian goods by Eritrea at Assab and Mas-sawa (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 18*).

October 19, 1998: In its report for Ethiopia, the UNDP stated that a number of donors, including the EU, have indicated an "interest in making use of the 'Somaliland' port of Berbera to supplement the still limited bulk cargo handling capacity of Djibouti". According to the report, the port of Berbera has sufficient capacity to receive cargo vessels of 10,000 to 15,000 tons capacity. UNDP also reported that there is an asphalt road from Berbera to a point some 60 km from Hargaisa. Though there are a number of broken bridges, trucks without trailers should be able to negotiate the route to Jijiga without problems, except for a 20 km stretch around the border which becomes difficult in the rainy season. Total distances involved are comparable to Djibouti (*Reporter, Oct. 14*).

Ethiopians there, Eritreans here:

December 21, 1998: Over 1,000 Eritreans from various regions outside Addis Ababa are reported to have been declared security risks and sent home (*Reporter, Dec. 14*) Eritrean Radio has complained bitterly about the continued expulsion of Eritreans from Ethiopia, whose number it says, has now reached 40,000. Matters have become complicated, it is said, because many of the expelled Eritreans had served as fronts for EPLF business ventures since the days of the armed struggle (*Menelik, Dec. 11*).

December 21, 1998: On the expulsion of Eritreans, EHCRO chairman professor Andargetchew Tesfaye issued a statement urging the government to carry out the expulsions making sure that the legal protection of

als is ensured (*VOA, Dec. 16*).

December 7, 1998: Business enterprises owned by Eritreans expelled from Ethiopia for reasons of national security are being sealed. This followed disclosures that the expelled Eritreans had based themselves in Djibouti from where they were trying to run their businesses (*Reporter, Nov. 30*).

November 23, 1998: UN-Secretary-General Kofi Annan is reported to have expressed his displeasure over the discussion by the Ethiopia government to expel 30 Eritreans working for UN bodies on grounds of national security (*Tikur Dem, Nov. 13*).

November 23, 1998: Eritrea has announced the death of three of its citizens in prison in south-western Ethiopia, according to reports by the ICRC (*VOA, Nov. 19*). They died of malaria in Bate (*Genanaw, Nov. 20*).

November 16, 1998: The Addis Ababa Finance Bureau has reportedly asked a court to impose a freeze on the properties of 307 Eritreans in order to secure payment of their income tax arrears. Those involved include employees and people engaged in low-income occupations (*Ethop, Nov. 11*).

October 12, 1998: The charge d'affaires of the Ethiopian Embassy in Asmara said a total of 120,000 Ethiopians used to live in Eritrea, 60 % of them in Assab. He said that there are at present an estimated 80,000 Ethiopians in Eritrea. Many of them were not only fired from their jobs but also beaten, tortured and harassed when they asked for their right to go home (*VOA, Oct. 6*).

October 12, 1998: An official of the Eritrean Foreign Ministry dismissed as baseless reports that Ethiopians in Eritrea are being denied the right to leave the country. He said Ethiopians are still working for the Eritrean government and that those who have been fired by mistake have been reinstated (*VOA, Oct. 7*).

October 5, 1998: Regarding the future status of Eritreans in Ethiopia, Meles said Eritreans who voted in the referendum have chosen to become Eritrean citizens and will be treated as such in Ethiopia and, like any other expatri-

(*Tobia, Oct. 1*).

October 5, 1998: The Inland Revenue Authority has said Eritrean owners and shareholders of various organisations, deported in the first and second rounds, owe the government over 65m birr in taxes. Some of them have put in petitions objecting to the charges (*Efoita, Sept. 23*).

Proposals for Conflict Resolution:

December 28, 1998: The OAU Central Organ for Conflict Prevention and Management has endorsed the proposals presented earlier by the OAU high-level delegation of leaders to end the Ethio-Eritrean conflict. The proposals call for the withdrawal of Eritrean forces from Ethiopian territories, for the return to positions held before May 6, 1998, and for the reinstatement of the civilian administration in Badme (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 19*). The Central Organ made the endorsement after listening first to a statement by Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who reaffirmed Ethiopia's acceptance of the peace proposals, and President Issayas Afeworki who read out a prepared statement that ran entirely counter to the peace proposals (*Reporter, Dec. 21*).

December 14, 1998: The American special envoy Anthony Lake shuttled back and forth from Addis Ababa to Asmara last week and left for Washington (*Addis Tribune Dec. 11*). Mr. Lake's proposals were said to include the acquisition of Assab port by Ethiopia and parity between the currencies both countries (*Tomar, Dec. 9*).

December 7, 1998: Eritrean President Issayas Afeworki is said to have sent a letter to Libyan leader Gaddafi declaring that he would accept Libyan mediation to resolve his country's conflict with Ethiopia. He reportedly expressed readiness to accept a Sahel-Saharan force as peace-keepers in the disputed areas (*Zegabi, Dec. 3*).

December 7, 1998: US National Security Advisor Anthony Lake came back to Addis Ababa to facilitate a peaceful solution to the Ethio-Eritrean border conflict (*ENA, Dec. 4*). A PANA story added that the talks would center around the latest proposals of the high-level mediation committee on the dispute that

met in Burkina Faso early November (*Monitor, Dec. 1*).

November 16, 1998: The Ouagadougou conference of the OAU heads of state held Nov. 7-8 to find a peaceful solution to the Ethio-Eritrean conflict ended without results (*Atkurot, Nov. 10*).

November 2, 1998: Five African heads of state have agreed to hold a two-day summit to help to resolve the territorial dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the President of Bukina Faso announced. Zimbabwe President Mugabe and his Djibouti counterpart are expected to join Compaore in presenting a peace plan to Eritrean and Ethiopian heads of state (*Monitor, Oct. 29*).

Appeals for Peace:

January 4, 1999: According to Patriarch Abune Paulos of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has extended a call to citizens to pray to God so that the Ethio-Eritrean conflict ends peacefully. His Holiness Abune Paulos made the call during the observance of the annual St. Gabriel's Day. (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec.28*).

November 16, 1998: Ethiopian and Eritrean religious leaders who discussed ways of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis between their two countries in Oslo have agreed to work for peace together. The conference, which drew a total of eight delegates from both countries, was organised by the Norwegian Church (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 10*). The Ethiopian delegation is lead by the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. It includes leaders of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, Catholic and Evangelical churches. (*Addis Tribune, Nov. 6*).

Preparations for Fighting:

December 28, 1998: Fighting between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops is reported to have taken place on Dec. 18 in the areas of Assimba and Tsorena. Tanks and heavy weapons are said to have been employed in the three-hour fire exchanges in which the Eritrean town of Tsorena was attacked and a fort destroyed (*Gemena, Dec. 22*).

November 30, 1998: Ethiopian army units are reported to have hit Asimba mountain with mortar and artillery shells to force Eritrean troops to withdraw. The Eritreans had used this mountain in Irob district which they control as a buffer for their artillery and mortar strikes on Adrigat and Badme (*Examiner, Nov. 25*).

November 30, 1998: Eritrean artillery attacks on Adrigat town are reported to have narrowly missed General Tsadkan Gebre Tensay,

Chief of the General Staff, and the Ezra Cultural Troupe of the National Theatre (*Atkurot, Nov. 24*)

November 23, 1998: Eritrean heavy weapons have attacked Adrigat town reportedly forcing Ethiopian defenders to move their weapons out of town to save them from being damaged (*Maebel, Nov. 14*).

November 23, 1998: Eritrean troops are said to have attacked Irob and Golomekeda district abducting 93 peasants families. They also abducted reportedly 1,266 heads of cattle . The Irob people are known for their vehement opposition to the Eritrean invaders (*Menelik, Nov. 13*).

November 23, 1998: Eritrea's ambassador to the UN has reportedly complained to the Security Council that Ethiopian forces had launched mortar and artillery attacks in the area of Badme and destroyed a number of villages, killing a child and three farmers (*Goh, Nov. 14*).

November 9, 1998: Eyewitness accounts affirm that missiles that had been installed in Mekele are being removed to be returned to Assossa. The missiles had been moved to Mekele at the start of the Eritrean invasion (*Goh, Oct. 31*).

November 9, 1998: A recent report indicates that officials from both countries accept estimates that a minimum of 200,000 armed soldiers have been mobilised altogether. Neither side denied that a process of rearmament has begun, with imports of weapons costing tens of millions of dollars, according to investigations by news organisations and arms trade lobby groups (*Addis Tribune, Nov. 6*).

October 19, 1998: Sophisticated missiles are said to have been put in place to guarantee safety from possible air attacks to any part of Ethiopia. Radar surveillance and missile protection are said to be active 24 hours (*Ethop, Oct. 14*).

October 5, 1998: Both Ethiopia and Eritrea are said to be armed with long-range strategic missiles able to strike distant targets. Mekele, Asmara and even Addis Ababa could thus possibly become potential targets, according to the report (*Genanaw, Sept. 25*)

Mobilising Troops and Money:

November 23, 1998: The Ethiopian Air Force invited 214 former members to return to the Air Force as a result of which many have reported back and completed formalities (*Akturot, Nov. 17*)

October 19, 1998: About 10,000 Eritrean youth are said to have completed their military training at Kiloma training centre near Assab. The trainees have since reportedly been deployed in the Red Sea area (*Ethio-Time, Oct. 11*).

October 19, 1998: It was reported by the Amharic transmission of Radio Egypt that a Libyan cargo ship carrying weapons and medicines had arrived at the Eritrean port of Massawa. (*Ethio-Time, Oct. 11*).

October 12, 1998: Donations mentioned by *Radio Ethiopia* on Oct. 3, 4 and 7 and by *Reporter* on Oct. 7 amount to a total of about 12.7m birr, 10m birr of which were donated by the Amhara Region.

October 5, 1998: Unconfirmed reports indicate that Eritrea's seven rounds of national military service training at Sawa have produced 120,000 soldiers. Meanwhile, about 40,000 to 60,000 Ethiopian youth trained at Bir Shekelo training centre have reportedly been deployed to the fronts (*Kibrit, Oct. 2*).

Other Issues:

December 7, 1998: Ethiopian officials are reported to have dismantled the Adrigat pharmaceutical factory in face of sustained Eritrean artillery and mortar attacks (*Ethio-Time, Nov. 28*).

October 5, 1998: The Eritrean government has infiltrated 45 terrorists into Ethiopia for a mission of sabotage targeting Addis Ababa. The infiltrators, said to include 10 Eritreans , 10 OLF members and 25 other terrorists, reportedly entered the country along with Ethiopians expelled from Eritrea. (*Reporter, Sept. 30*).

October 5, 1998: Amid intensive preparations of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, German technicians at the Adwa Textile Factory are reported to have been advised to move to Addis Ababa, which they did on September 26 (*Tomar, Sept. 30*)

2. Economics, Finance, Commerce

Investment and Investment Policy:

December 28, 1998: Water basins in Oromiya and the Southern Peoples' State can generate 2,800 mega watt of hydroelectric power and can also be used to develop 91,000 hectares. The Omo and Gibe rivers account for 20% of the 44,000 mega watt of hydroelectric power potential in the country. The development of the basins' agricultural activities worth 7.6 billion birr will start next year (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec.23*).

December 28, 1998: It has been decided that the government take over the Kalub project

following the unsuccessful bids to transfer the Kalub Gas Development Project to private ownership. A release said that construction for project development has started, and that over 74m \$ has been obtained in loan from the World Bank for the exploitation of natural gas. Studies have indicated that there is 68 billion cbm of natural gas in the locality of Kalub in the Ogaden (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 19*). However, there are serious security concerns because of the military activities in the area of Al-Itihad and a dissident faction of the ONLF (*Tobia, Dec. 24*).

December 21, 1998: The Oromiya Development Association has started 208 development projects in all 12 zones of Oromiya at a cost of 81m birr with funds allocated by ODA, the Ethiopian Social Rehabilitation and Development Fund and private investors (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 17*).

December 7, 1998: A metal industry built in Addis Ababa at a cost of 41m birr by a private businessman would become operational after one month, factory sources said. The factory will produce over 15,000 tons of metal per year, thereby helping save foreign exchange that would have been spent to import various types of metals (*Abiotawi Democracy, Dec. 2*).

November 30, 1998: Menschen für Menschen has signed a 33m birr agreement with five bureaux of Oromiya state for rural development projects in Dera district. The projects which will be completed in three years include health, education, potable water supply and soil conservation as well as terracing activities. Over 97,000 people are expected to benefit from these projects (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 21*).

November 30, 1998: The Addis Ababa Water Sewerage Authority has announced that the Akaki Emergence Underground Water Project under construction to alleviate the water shortage problems in Addis Ababa, is one year behind the original schedule as a result of the deportation of the contractor from the country for conspiring with the Eritrean government (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 25*).

November 30, 1998: Ethiopia's largest sugar factory after Wonji and Metahara will soon start sugar production. This is the Fincha Sugar Factory in Wellega state. The factory plans to produce 65,000 tons this year and aims at raising this to 85,000 tons in the next three years. The factory has 4,500 workers at the factory and the sugar cane plantations. When it attains full-scale production capacity, it will require about 6,200 ha of sugar cane.

Wonji and Metahara factories have so far been jointly producing about 200,000 tons of sugar (*Efoita, Nov. 18*).

November 23, 1998: The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority has started an expansion project of the Bole International Airport. The project includes the construction of an additional airfield, a passenger reception centre and various offices. It will cost about 491m birr (*Tobia, Nov. 19*).

November 16, 1998: The government-owned Chinese International Economic and Technical Cooperation Company and the Ethiopian Agro-Industry Private Ltd Co. will undertake a joint construction venture to build a pharmaceutical factory in Debre Zeit. The Ethio-Chinese Sunshine which will be operational by late 1999 will manufacture 250 million tablets of 16 different types annually. (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 23*).

October 12, 1998: The Ministry of Water Resources announced that the first phase study of potable Water development and rehabilitation project which will be undertaken in 25 towns at a cost of 65.5m US-\$ has been completed. The project manager said that 35.7m US-\$ were obtained from the World Bank while the remaining 29.8m \$ were allocated by the Ethiopian government (*ETV, Oct. 7*).

October 12, 1998: A group of Ethiopian and South African investors are preparing to set up a brewery in Akaki district, East Shoa Zone. Some 800 persons will get employment when the brewery goes operational in one year's time (*Monitor, Oct. 8*).

August 24, 1998: Construction of the Gilgel Gibe hydro-electric power project has entered the final stage. Construction projects due to start this year include a 40 m high dam. According to the Ethiopian Electric Light Corporation's report, the new power plant has a capacity of 415 megawatt thereby increasing the country's power supply by 45 % (*Abiotawi Democracy, Aug. 13*).

Privatisation:

December 28, 1998: The Ethiopian Privatization Agency has so far received some 17,000 petitions related to claims on alleged properties nationalized outside the law. Out of these, 4000 cases have been reviewed, with final decisions on 350 of them (*Addis Tribune, Dec. 25*).

Foreign Trade:

December 14, 1998: According to sources close to the Ministry of Finance, the current maximum tariff on duties of 80 % will drop

down to 40 % within a month and to 20 % maximum within the coming three years (*Capital, Dec. 12*).

December 14, 1998: According to a statement of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia individuals and companies are to import some 300 fuel trucks. They are expected to arrive after a month and will help improve fuel supply in Ethiopia (*Efoita*).

December 7, 1998: The Coffee and Tea Authority has said Ethiopia plans to earn as much as 429.9m \$ from export sales of 143,200 tons of coffee this year. During the 1989/90 EC production year 121,366 tons of coffee was exported earning a total of 410,6m \$ (*Efoita, Nov. 25*).

October 19, 1998: The Ethiopian Customs Authority has disclosed that it has seized 2,000 tons of salt, which dealers said were imported from Yemen via Djibouti, because it had "reason to doubt" the commodity's country of origin. The supply of salt has fallen short of domestic demand after Ethiopia broke economic relations with Eritrea where the bulk of the salt used to come from. The customs office now put in place new regulations for all salt imports to present a bill of lading and a certificate of country of origin (*Monitor, Oct. 13, 15*).

October 5, 1998: The Tea Marketing Enterprise has exported 187.4 tons of tea earning a 2.5 million birr profit in 1997/98. The principal importers of Ethiopian tea are the US, Canada, England, Djibouti, Yemen and Pakistan (*ENA, Sept. 28*).

September 28, 1998: The Ethiopian Oilseeds and Pulses Export Corporation said it has earned 12.5m birr from the export of oilseeds to European and American markets. The corporation said Ethiopian oilseeds and pulses are in demand on foreign markets for their excellent taste and high quality (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 23*).

September 14, 1998: Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings from goods, services and inward transfer totalled 10 billion birr in 1997/98 against 8.5 billion birr in the previous fiscal year (+ 18 %). The major reasons behind this increase are reported to be the rise in the physical volume of coffee exports, the favourable world price for coffee and an improved performance on the services and inward transfer accounts of the balance of payments (*Addis Tribune, Sept. 10*).

September 7, 1998: The Upper Awash Agro-Industry enterprise says it has generated \$ 1.6m in hard currency in the just completed fiscal year from the export of fruits and vege-

tables. The enterprise has exported 12.37 quintals of products to Italy, Germany and Holland (*Monitor, Sept. 3*).

August 24, 1998: Spending on imports, which outstrips export revenues by nearly 2:1, has increased dependency on foreign loans and grants despite the government's good intentions. Ethiopia's imports in 1997/98 soared to \$ 1.2 billion compared to \$ 620m in export trade (*Monitor, Aug. 18*).

State Revenues, Budgets, Economic Growth:

November 2, 1998: The ENB and the Customs Authority are facing a serious challenge from under-invoicing of goods. 83 % of declarations of goods were under-invoiced during 1997/98 and should be reimbursed (*Reporter, Oct. 28*).

November 2, 1998: Ethiopia expects to achieve up to 8 % economic growth during the current fiscal year ending in June 1999, according to the, Vice-Minister of Trade and Industry. He cited the liberalisation of the banking sector that removed restrictions on hard currency transactions by state and private commercial banks as one of the measures of the government had taken to speed up economic growth (*Monitor, Oct. 27*).

November 2, 1998: Ethiopia's economy had slowed in 1997/98, with real GDP growth estimated 0.5 %, compared with a robust 5.6 % in the previous year. The slowdown, according to the IMF, could be mainly attributed to the adverse effects of the El Nino on agriculture. Average inflation was contained to 2.5 %, owing to the relatively tight monetary stance and abundant food availability. Gross domestic savings were estimated to have remained at 7 % of GDP in 1997/98 but the country remained extremely dependent on foreign savings (*Reporter, Oct. 28*).

August 24, 1998: Finance Minister Sufian Ahmed said Ethiopia raised 6.7 billion through direct and indirect taxation compared with 5 billion birr in expenditures. The 1997/98 budget was 10.453 billion birr, 7.06 billion birr of which was to be raised internally and the rest externally through loans and grants. Ethiopia has announced a 1998/99 budget of 11.137 billion birr. The internal revenue target is 7.666 billion birr (*Monitor, Aug. 18*).

Debts, Loans and Credits:

December 21, 1998: The governments of Ethiopia and Norway signed a 42.9m \$ grant agreement for the procurement of fertiliser (*ETV, Dec. 17*).

November 23, 1998: An agreement signed in July with the African Development Fund (ADF) provides a loan of about 25m \$ for the partial financing of the Alemgena Butajira Road Upgrading Project. 33.6m \$ are needed for the full implementation of the project. The Federal Government will cover the balance. The ADF-loan will be repaid over a 40-year period after 10-year grace period. The 120 km road will serve as a shorter alternative route to Kenya, and will link Ethiopia to the future Cairo-Gabrone transcontinental highway (*ETV, Nov. 17*).

November 9, 1998: A memorandum of understanding was signed between the governments of Ethiopia and the Netherlands, including arrangements on the utilisation of 3.6m \$ provided earlier by the Netherlands for ongoing projects at the Alemaya and Mekele universities (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 5*).

November 9, 1998: A 7.1m \$ agreement was signed between the governments of Ethiopia and Japan. The money will be used for the purchase of transportation vehicles, agricultural chemicals and inputs that enhance the growth of agricultural production (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 5*).

November 2, 1998: The IMF approved the second annual loan of about \$ 42m for Ethiopia, to support the Ethiopian government's economic and financial program for the fiscal year 1998/99 under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF). The IMF had approved a 3 years ESAF arrangement to Ethiopia in October 1996. However the arrangement expired in October 1997 since midterm review could not be completed (*Reporter, Oct. 28*).

October 19, 1998: A 23.4m \$ grant agreement to support development projects in the education (12m \$) and health (11.4m \$) sectors was signed by the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operation and the US Ambassador (*ENA, Oct. 14*).

September 14, 1998: The Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia has announced that 8 rural micro-credit banks have become operational. Set up with an initial capital of 8m birr, the banks will render services to peasants, women and other underemployed people in the lower economic stratum (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 6*).

September 7, 1998: 669m \$ are granted for funding of four projects that have been approved by the World Bank for Ethiopia in the fiscal year 1997/98. Normally, implementing of these projects will take about 4 to 5 years. They are: (1) the power project at Gilgil Gibe;

(2) the World Bank's first phase intervention in support of the sector investment program for roads which basically finances the rehabilitation of four major truck roads in Ethiopia; (3) the agricultural research and training program; and (4) the education sector investment program project (*Reporter, Sept. 3*).

August 24, 1998: Unless Russia cancels the debt which Ethiopia owes her, Ethiopia's total debt would amount to a back-breaking 9.2 billion US-\$ or around 146 % of GDP as the following table on outstanding external debt in 1996/97 indicates (in million \$):

<i>A. Multilateral</i>	
<i>IMF</i>	90
<i>IDA</i>	1,547
<i>African Dev.</i>	
<i>Bank/Fund</i>	796
<i>other</i>	157
<i>B. Bilateral</i> 1,440	
<i>C. Commercial debt</i> 146	
<i>Sub-Total</i> 4,171	
<i>D. Debt to Russia</i> 5,000	
<hr/> Total 9,171 <hr/>	
<i>E. GDP</i>	6,332

We may conclude from these figures that Ethiopia's external debt burden is unsustainable high at present for the following three reasons: (1) its debt/GDP ratio is crushingly high; (2) some 46 % of her foreign exchange earnings from exports of goods and services is devoting to servicing external debt; and (3) her debt arrears stand at the very worrisome level of about 650m \$. The Ethiopian economy is being substantially propped up by external grants and loans, which is partly why the country's foreign exchange reserves are still at a comfortable level despite soaring imports. However, the loan component of this external assistance is definitely going to add to the country's external debt burden. The fear is that the country may face increasing debt servicing problems in the future as external debt incurred over the last seven years falls due (*Addis Tribune, Aug. 21*).

Transport and Communication:

December 21, 1998: The Ethiopian Roads Authority has said repair work on 980 km of asphalt and gravel roads in north-eastern Ethiopia is underway at a cost of 10.2 billion birr. The roads under repair with funds allocated by the Ethiopian Road Fund are in 21

zones in Afar, Amhara and Tigray states (*Abiotawi Democracy, Dec. 10*).

December 21, 1998: The construction of a 381 km road in North Gondar has started at a cost of over 60m birr. The project was launched last year and 20 km has already been built. The project will be completed in 2002 (*state media, Dec.17*).

December 21, 1998: The 128 km long gravel road stretching from Lalibela to Sekota linking north Wello to Wag Himra zone, Amhara state, was inaugurated. The construction work began in 1995 and costed over 93m birr (*Monitor, Dec 15*).

November 16, 1998: The Ethio-Djibouti Railway will obtain 250m birr in aid from the European Union. The money will be used to improve the rail tracks. The railway's income has increased considerably since Ethiopia started using the port of Djibouti last May. (*Abiotawi Democracy, Nov 5*).

November 9, 1998: Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Al-Amoudi is the major investor with 75 % of the 1.2 billion \$ invested to date in World Space, the Washington-based digital radio broadcasting corporation, it was learned, when the company's first satellite AfriStar was launched in Kourou, French Guyana. AfriStar is now in orbit over Africa and will provide 24-hour services in various languages to Africa and the Middle East within a few months (*Reporter, Nov. 4*).

November 9, 1998: Clients of 8 towns of Somali regional state are to benefit from instalment of telephone services that operate with modern satellite communication systems, according to a senior official of ETC in Jijiga (*Efoita, Oct. 28*).

November 2, 1998: According to the General Manager of the Ethiopian Roads Authority, only 97,114 km of the total 134,318 km of the roads of the country are functioning. He said despite a marked increase of about 110 % in the construction and maintenance of roads in the country, much more remains to be accomplished to bring the service to the level reached by other African countries (*Abiotawi Democracy, Oct. 22*).

October 19, 1998: The General Manager of the Ethiopian Roads Authority has said that maintenance on the Nekempte-Assosa road would start soon. The road had been one of the most neglected in the last 30 years. Due to severe damage on the road, traffic was almost about to stop, the manager said (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 13*).

September 28, 1998: Effective October 27, Ethiopian Airlines will start a twice-weekly service to New York City. This will bring the Number of EAL's destinations world-wide to 44. New York is EAL's second destination in North America after Washington which was opened on June 4, 1998 (*Monitor Sept. 26*).

Foreign Exchange Regulations:

November 16, 1998: The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has disclosed that the weekly wholesale foreign exchange auction currently in effect will be superseded by an inter-bank foreign exchange market in a few months' time (*Addis Tribune, Nov. 13*).

September 7, 1998: Foreign currency allocations will be administered by government and private commercial banks. Exporters can deposit in foreign currency 10 % of their exchange earnings. Exporters can convert their foreign exchange currency deposits into the local currency within four weeks at the official trading rate to be decided by the market forces. Commercial banks, both government and private, have been allowed to trade foreign currency (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 31*).

Other Issues:

December 28, 1998: The Addis Ababa Administration has set aside 6,000 plots of land for the construction of residential houses. About 300 housing cooperatives will benefit from this arrangement, Ato Amare said (*Efoita, Dec. 16*).

December 21, 1998: The water recourse management draft policy which has taken about two years to complete was drafted by an all-Ethiopian group of experts. The policy states that 132 billion cubic meter of water are available every year. However, in Ethiopia only 2 % of its water recourses are exploited and less than 17 % of potable water is utilised (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 13*).

October 12, 1998: The Minister of Works and Urban Development and Chairman of the National Fuel Committee said, measures are being taken to increase the country's fuel reserve by fourfold. Noting that the country has at present limited fuel reserve, he said the construction of more fuel depots in the east and western parts of the country is being finalised. More depots will also be built in the east and northern parts of the country (*Abiotawi Democracy, Oct. 1*).

October 5, 1998: 2,500 people organised into 114 housing co-operatives are receiving 65 to 105 sq. m. of land for the construction of

residences in the Mekanissa, Bole Bulbula, and Keraneo areas in the capital, the AA City Administration announced. The city administration has revealed plans to distribute additional land to 8,000 families in the Akaki and Kotebe areas (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 1*).

3. Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought

Extension, Investment and Credits:

January 4, 1999: Over 399,000 peasant farmers will be included in the agricultural extension program in the coming production season. This was announced by the Tigray state agricultural bureau (*ENA, Dec. 26*).

January 4, 1999: Half of the farmers of Amhara state will be included in the extension program until next year in line with the country's five-year plan of action (*Abiotawi Democracy, Dec. 24*).

November 30, 1998: Agricultural extension program activities in the Amhara state have increased four-fold since the past year. Harvest in the current year is also expected to be considerably higher than last year due to abundant rains (*Bekur, Nov. 20*).

November 23, 1998: The Sasawaka Global 2000 is conducting an agricultural demonstration program to teach farmers that over-ploughing their fields would cost them a lot of labour and damage the fertility of the soil. Through the program, farmers are being taught that they can plough their fields only once for three consecutive growing seasons during the year by using chemicals (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 15*).

November 16, 1998: Sasakawa Global 2000 is undertaking a field study to curb pre-harvest wastage of teff. The study aims at strengthening teff stalks so as to keep the crop upright until the time of harvest by applying growth regulating chemicals. It is showing positive results and teff yields could double if the crop is treated with fertiliser (*Entrepreneur, Nov. 11*).

November 9, 1998: The Ethio-Flora Agricultural Development enterprise has supplied to the foreign market 2,200 tons of flowers and vegetables since it started operation in 1996. These crops are grown on 50 ha in the Zwai locality of East Shoa. The enterprise has opened jobs for 300 people, 19 of whom are graduates of institutions of higher learning (*Efoita, Oct. 28*).

October 19, 1998: It is fair to commend the government's efforts to increase fertiliser use among peasant farmers in Ethiopia from only about 121,000 metric tons in 1993 to the present over 400,000 metric tons; but it is

only rational to have both sides to the fertiliser story so that a more balanced assessment of the benefit of fertiliser use may be made. (1) There have been widespread reports of inappropriate fertiliser application leading to permanent impairment of natural soil fertility in some parts of the country. (2) The health hazards posed by fertiliser used have long been recognised in the developed countries, organic agriculture now being more popular. (3) Ethiopia is developing a dependency on chemical fertiliser which is disproportionately high to her virtually non-existent production capacities and financial sources. (4) Fertiliser storage and distribution are not smooth - instances in which tons of fertiliser have rotted for lack of storage facilities and distribution mechanisms have frequently been reported. (5) The preoccupation with increased fertiliser use has diverted attention from important agricultural development strategies, including commercial farming, irrigation and diversification of agricultural export products. (6) The financing of fertiliser imports through foreign loans and grants is increasing the country's external debt burden as well as its dependency on foreign sources of finance. (7) Overzealous encouragement of farmers to take fertiliser credit has significantly raised the level of peasant indebtedness, with widespread cases of credit default resulting in incarcination of farmers by the very same political zealots who induced them to take the loans the first place (*Addis Tribune, Oct. 16*).

October 5, 1998: It is wise on the part of the government to integrate the very crucial component of irrigation into the peasant agricultural development program which has hitherto mainly concentrated on fertiliser distribution. It is hoped that the widespread construction of micro-irrigation schemes will reduce the present very high dependency of Ethiopian agriculture on the availability of rainfall (*Addis Tribune, Oct. 2*).

September 7, 1998: The Ministry of Agriculture has disclosed that the five-year livestock resources development project will be launched beginning next year at a cost of 300m birr. The project consists of livestock breeding, fodder supply and veterinary services (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 30*).

September 7, 1998: 91 investors with a combined capital of 30 million birr have initiated agricultural activities on 12,000 ha in border areas of North Gondar zone. They will use the land to grow sesame, cotton and sorghum, which have substantial economic value (*Addis Tribune, Sept. 4*).

Agricultural Input and Production:

January 4, 1999: A joint report produced by the FAO and the WFP predicts near record crop yields in Ethiopia this year. But despite the expected excellent harvest, some 2 million people will still require 180,000 tons of food aid in 1999. Cereal and pulse yields are forecasted to reach 11.69 million tons. That's up 36 percent from last year's poor harvest, but slightly less than the record crop harvests of 1996. Ethiopia will have surplus crops available for export. Grain could be exported to Somalia, which suffered an estimated 125,000 tons of deficit this year. (*Addis Tribune, Jan. 1*).

November 30, 1998: The Sidama Zone co-operative office says 43 farmers co-operatives in the zone plan to supply 7,100 tons of washed coffee to the central auction in 1998/99 compared to 4,384 tons last year. The co-operatives with an aggregate capital of more than 75m birr have about 85,000 members (*ENA, Nov. 24*).

October 5, 1998: The National Fertiliser Industry Agency has said that 4.19 million quintals of fertiliser is needed this year to enhance the country's endeavours for food self-sufficiency. The agency has indicated that 4.7 million quintals of fertiliser was supplied by the agency and private companies out of which 3 million quintals were used by farmers in different parts of the country last year (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 30*).

September 28, 1998: Ethiopian officials announced that they plan to put 6 millions of hectares of land for tea plantation grown by millions of peasant farmers in western Ethiopia. The diversification will reduce dependence on coffee exports which account for around 70 % of hard currency exports. The first two commercial farms both in western Ethiopia at Wush Wush and Gumero have an annual capacity of 4,000 tons of tea. In 1997/98 Ethiopia sold 1,531 tons of tea, 226.4 tons of which were exported and fetched 573,365 \$, according to official data (*Addis Tribune, Sept. 25*).

Other Agricultural Issues:

November 16, 1998: The Ethiopian government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed a \$ 18.2m loan agreement to help finance the Agricultural Research and Training Project (*Monitor, Nov. 14*).

November 9, 1998: An increasing number of cattle are dying in Tigray State due to the outbreak of cattle disease. A health official said 1,000 heads of cattle perished recently

due to lack of information and exchange concerning the disease (*ENA, Nov. 2*).

October 5, 1998: The Deputy Director of the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organisation, said that Ethiopia ranks among the world's leading countries which lose an estimated over 30 % of their pre- and post-harvest crops to insects, weeds, and diseases (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 28*).

Drought, Flood, Famine, Food Aid:

January 4, 1999: A FAO/WFP report noted that the relatively low number of people estimated to require food assistance in Ethiopia in 1999 conceals the fact that a much larger number suffer from chronic food insecurity. While the FAO/WFP mission estimated that only some 4 percent of the rural population will require food aid in 1999, approximately 26 million Ethiopians, or more than 40 percent of the farming population, do not produce enough food and income to meet their families' basic nutritional requirements (*Addis Tribune, Jan. 1*).

January 4, 1999: A serious humanitarian problem is faced in south-eastern Ethiopia. Over a million people are faced with famine and disease in the lowlands of Eastern Harerge and the Somali Region as a result of the shortage of rains last year. It is said that about 13,000 people sold their animals and homes to escape to neighboring towns. 15 districts in the zone are said to require emergency relief assistance (*Tobia, Dec. 31*).

December 28, 1998: The Oromiya Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau has claimed over five hundred thousand people in areas of the East Harerge zone are in desperate need of food aid. The Bureau head also described the precipitating threat of famine or food shortage in the lowland regions of Borena and Bale. Apparently, more than eighty thousand people living in Bale require aid (*Addis Tribune, Dec. 25*).

October 19, 1998: Washington has provided 60,000 metric tons of wheat in support of WFP activities in Ethiopia. The donation will be distributed to victims of the 1998 Meher crop failure, and for refugees within Ethiopia (*Monitor, Oct. 15*).

October 5, 1998: The WFP has in the past eight years donated 800,000 tons of food to Ethiopia every year valued at over 80m US-\$ (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 26*).

Environment:

January 4, 1999: The Gambella National Park is losing a great number of its wildlife and

forest resources for lack of the essential protection (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 29*).

December 7, 1998: There are 1,152 tons of obsolete pesticides and over 100 tons of contaminated equipment and soil in 256 towns and cities in the country. It was declared that a sum of over 35mio birr is needed to remove the hazardous deposits of pesticides and soil. A forum is being organised to solicit donors' support for the project (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 3*).

November 23, 1998: The Amhara state loses 1.1 billion tons of soil every year. This represents 59 % of the soil lost from Ethiopia every year (*Efoita, Nov. 11*).

November 16, 1998: A senior expert of the Environmental Protection Authority has expressed concern over the country's rapid forest depletion. The forest area has been reduced to 2.3 % of Ethiopia's land; the country's population stands at 61 million. He said every Ethiopian needs 1.2 cubic meters of firewood every year and that the total of between 150,000 and 200,000 ha of forests are destroyed every year. In contrast, not more than 20 ha of forest land is developed every year (*Efoita, Nov. 4*).

November 2, 1998: A document containing the draft proclamation providing for the establishment of the Awash Basin Water Resources Administration Agency has indicated that there are illicit irrigation activities along the basin. These activities have caused water wastage and pollution and have aggravated the salinity problem along the basin (*ENA, Oct. 28*).

September 28, 1998: Forest fire recently destroyed a considerable amount of plant and animal life in the Nech Sar National Park. Forests covering 1,200 ha have been completely destroyed and several animals, some of them endemic to Ethiopia, have been forced to migrate into neighbouring areas while many others have been destroyed by fires set by some people to clear the park area to grow grass for their livestock. Efforts are underway to resettle the people out of the park area (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 19*).

4. Tourism

November 30, 1998: A total of 94 historical and tourist attraction sites have been spotted in Keffa Sheka zone. According to officials, 34 caves, 22 natural forest areas, 13 water falls, 10 natural bridges, 13 hot springs and two lakes have been discovered (*Abiotawi Democracy, Nov. 19*).

5. Social, Cultural and Political

Aspects

Opposition-Related Issues:

January 4, 1999: According to close sources, 18 western diplomats based in Addis Ababa were said to have held talks with some Ethiopian opposition groups in a bid to persuade them to participate in the next elections. (*Meyssaw, Dec. 28*).

December 28, 1998: Two exiled political organizations, the OLF and ONLF, have issued a joint statement calling on the people of Oromiya and the Ogaden not to participate in the war against the EPLF regime. Pointing out that the Ethio-Eritrean war is no concern of the Oromos or the Ogadenis, the statement expressed its support for the cause of the EPLF and condemned claims by the Ethiopian government that the deportation of Eritreans was done for security reasons (*Efoita, Dec. 16*).

December 7, 1998: 16 members of the armed religious group Il-Ithad have reportedly surrendered to the Ethiopian government. They join others from Il-Ithad and ONLF who had earlier surrendered to take advantage of the amnesty extended by the central federal government of Ethiopia (*The Sun, Dec. 3*).

November 30, 1998: The OLF has started radio broadcasts over Radio Eritrea. The programs in Oromiffa are transmitted for 30 minutes three days a week (*Tobia, Nov. 26*).

November 23, 1998: The office of the OLF in Sudan reportedly has been ordered closed and ORA's work has been disrupted. An agreement was reportedly reached between Ethiopia's foreign minister and Somali faction leader Hussein Aideed to deny bases in Somalia to Al-Ithad, ONLF and OLF (*Tobia, Nov. 19*).

October 19, 1998: The Sidama Liberation Front is said to have denounced a report alleging that it has aligned itself with Eritrea in the current dispute with Ethiopia (*Amaratch, Oct. 8*).

October 19, 1998: Eritrean President Issayas Afeworki is said to have held talks with OLF leader Gelassa Dilbo during which President Issayas reportedly told Gelassa that OLF could set up an office in Asmara (*Menelik, Oct. 9*).

September 28, 1998: Reorientation courses are being given to 350 members of the OLF, Al-Ithad and the ONLF who have surrendered to the government by accepting the call for peace. An official of the Somali state council said the members of the group admitted that they were involved in terrorist and

anti-development activities in the past at the instigation of their respective organisations (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 24*).

September 28, 1998: Al-Ithad, an armed religious organisation, had recently received military equipment and copies of the Koran from Bangladesh and Kuwait, according to a Somali newspaper. The military consignment has been taken to Buurdhuubo (Southwest Somalia) where Al Ithad has a huge military base (*Sun, Sept.. 24*).

September 28, 1998: The Union of Ethiopian Opposition Political Parties was reportedly formed at the end of the Paris Conference, held in September. The 8 political parties which formed the union also resolved to adopt peaceful political struggle in the future, A Diplomatic Committee to enlist the support of the international community was also formed (*Amaratch, Sept. 24*).

September 14, 1998: 8 Ethiopian opposition political parties started conference on a range of political and socio-economic issues. They are: (1) Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front; (2) Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia; (3) Tigray Democratic Union; (4) Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Union; (5) Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic forces; (6) Oromo National Congress; (7) Ethiopian Democratic Salvation Party; (8) Tigray-Tigrigni Ethiopia Group for Social Democracy. The AAPO and OLF have declined invitations (*VOA, Sept. 9*).

Crime, Corruption and Legal Affairs:

December 21, 1998: Over one million birr has been embezzled out of the 1997/98 budget allocated for the Addis Ababa administration and its different bureaux and departments. 30 million was unused out of the allocated budget. Among the departments which failed to properly utilise their budgets is the health bureau (*Addis Lissan, Dec. 9*).

December 7, 1998: The Oromiya administration is reported to have sealed the office of its vice-president after he failed to return home from the US, where he was having medical treatment (*Nebelbal, Nov. 27*).

September 14, 1998: 30 officials and army generals of the previous government convicted of war crimes have been set free after seven years of imprisonment without trial. The "Red Terror" campaign suspects, including at least four army generals and two senior women government officials were freed on account of insufficient evidence to support charges levelled against them (*VOA, Sept. 9*).

Military and Defence:

December 21, 1998: Bulgaria is reported to have authorised the sale of 210 tanks to Ethiopia about which American officials are said to have complained when they called for an arms embargo on Ethiopia, Eritrea, Uganda and Central African countries (*Goh, Dec. 12*).

December 21, 1998: Sources based in Sudan have revealed that Arab middlemen were active in the clandestine sale by Rumania of advanced missiles and rockets to the Eritrean government. Friendly Arab states are believed to have sponsored the \$ 50m transaction (*Tobia, Dec. 17*).

December 7, 1998: Russia is to supply Ethiopia with used fighter planes, helicopters and other military equipment in a deal worth \$ 150m (*Addis Tribune, Dec. 4*).

November 16, 1998: Senior commanders of the army who met in Addis Ababa passed a decision recommending that Brigadier-General Samora Yenus be appointed Minister of Defence (*Maebel, Nov. 7*).

October 12, 1998: An Israeli newspaper is said to have reported that Ethiopia is planning to upgrade 30 Mig 21 fighter jets in addition to the 10 already undergoing upgrading (*Menelik, Oct. 2*). According to a report in Africa Confidential, 19 Mig 21 and 20 Mig 23 jets of the Ethiopian Air Force are to be upgraded by Israeli Air Industries, owned by the Israeli government (*Moresh, Oct. 6*).

NGO-Related Issues:

December 7, 1998: Addis Ababa Council vice president said that a desk has been established within the council to coordinate the activities of NGOs. The desk disclosed that 23 foreign and 53 local humanitarian organisations undertook 101 projects with a combined capital of 352m birr between 1985 and 1990 EC (*Addis Nissan, Nov. 28*).

Refugees:

December 14, 1998: The DPPD of Amhara state said 9m birr was donated in support of citizens displaced from Eritrea and now settled in Amhara state. There are 13,000 people sheltered in Amhara state at present. They will later go to their respective localities after receiving the necessary ratios (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 6*).

November 30, 1998: The Adrigat Catholic Development Office has launched a project worth 1.3m birr to involve 1,500 people displaced from Irob and Golomekeda localities in rural road construction and terracing programs (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 24*).

November 30, 1998: The government of Djibouti has reportedly ordered citizens to carry proper identification papers in an attempt to control the movement of infiltrators and rebels. It is said that there are over 30,000 refugees in Djibouti, most of them Ethiopians. Of these, most Oromo refugees are suspected of being engaged in illegal activities (*Mebruk, Nov. 26*).

News about Church and Religion:

November 30, 1998: A serious row is said to have broken out among the leadership of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus over the use of language. The Church Synod is said to have been divided over the use of the Oromo language. The president of the Church is said to have written a letter announcing the removal of three members of the Central Synod. In response, different members of the church have written letters of angry protest to the president (*Ethio-Time, Nov. 22*).

October 12, 1998: Followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Evangelists clashed in Agaro town over the ownership rights to a place of religious worship. It is said that a square in the town used by Orthodox Christians during the annual Epiphany celebrations was given to the Evangelists, causing the disturbances in which several people were hurt (*Tikur Dem, Oct. 5*).

News about Culture and History:

December 14, 1998: A British newspaper is said to have disclosed that the British government is considering the return of art treasures taken from Ethiopia during the Napier Expedition against emperor Tewodros in 1868. The loot is said to include 350 sacred books, a crown, and ceremonial silver crosses (*Tikur Dem, Dec. 7*).

Foreign Relations:

December 21, 1998: The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs has urged the Sudanese government to extradite the alleged Muslim militants who took part in the assassination attempt of Egyptian President Mubarak during a visit to Addis Ababa in 1995. Sudan has, however, denied the presence of the said terrorists in its country (*VOA, Dec. 14*).

December 14, 1998: Prime Minister Meles Zenawi paid a one-day official visit to Djibouti. He discussed with President Hassan Gouled Aptidon and other senior officials ways of further strengthening the existing ties between the two countries (ENA, Dec. 8). The discussion included the need for joint military opera-

tions to secure the safety of their common borders and the road links between the two countries (*Akturot, Dec. 8*).

November 23, 1998: Sudan's Minister of Information remarked that, despite recent peace talks in Qatar with Eritrea, it is difficult to believe that the Eritrea government would change its aggressive character and its tendency to interfere in the internal affairs of other states (*Reporter, Nov 16*).

November 23, 1998: Sudanese dissident leaders based in Eritrea are reported to be leaving Asmara out of fear of being betrayed and handed over following the recent agreements between Sudan and Eritrea (*Reporter, Nov 16*).

November 23, 1998: The Djibouti Foreign Minister has disclosed that its mission in Eritrea had been closed and that the ambassador had been recalled. Djibouti severed diplomatic ties with Eritrea after Eritrea accused it of supporting Ethiopia in the Ethiopia-Eritrean conflict (*ETV, Nov. 19*).

November 16, 1998: The Sudanese government is reportedly considering moves to hand over to Ethiopia leaders of opposition groups based in Sudan following the recent improvement of relations between the two countries. Those to face the threat include General Haile Meles (*Tobia, Nov. 12*).

November 16, 1998: Qatari mediation efforts between Sudan and Eritrea have paid off with the foreign ministers of the two countries signing an agreement. Both countries have pledged not to interfere in each others affairs. Sudan has been accusing Eritrea of aiding southern rebels and Eritrea had earlier given the premise of the Sudanese embassy in Asmara to Sudanese opposition groups (*Sun, Nov.12*).

November 2, 1998: Ethiopian authorities have allegedly decided to close the office of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the southern Ethiopian town of Gambella. Ethiopia took this action after the two countries recently agreed to curb the activities of each others opposition groups in their respective countries (*Sun, Oct. 29*).

October 12, 1998: The International Court of Justice in the Hague passed its decision on Oct. 9 concerning the dispute over the Hanish Islands between Eritrea and Yemen. The Court decided that Yemen had the right of sovereignty over all the disputed islands in the Red Sea Radio (*Ethiopia, Oct. 9*).

October 19, 1998: The Eritrean government has announced that the International court

ruled in its favour regarding ownership of some smaller islands (*Reporter, Oct. 12*).

Nile Waters:

January 4, 1999: The Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahram* wrote on December 31 that the World Bank has refused to finance any scheme which would result in the damming of parts of the Nile in Ethiopia. The usage of Nile waters continues to cause tension between the countries. Hopefully, when the Ethiopian delegation visits Cairo in February, specifically to discuss the Nile issue, some sort of agreement is expected to be reached at (*Addis Tribune, Jan. 1*).

November 16, 1998: According to the Egyptian ambassador, Egypt fully supports Ethiopia's plans to utilise the Nile waters but he also underscored that prior notification of the project plans for the utilisation of the waters remains very important. That, according to the ambassador, is keeping with the international law governing the use of international waters (*VOA, Nov. 7*).

October 19, 1998: According to the BBC, Egypt, Sudan and Tanzania met in Arusha to conclude an agreement on their respective shares of Nile waters. This meeting was not attended by Ethiopia and other Nile riparian states (*Moresh, Oct. 13*).

September 14, 1998: Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri stated that his country does not exceed its share of the Nile River's water, where the new projects implemented in Southern Egypt, the Sahara or Sinai depend on the specified share of Egypt, amounting to 55.5 billion cubic meters, according to the ratified water agreement of 1959. (*Addis Tribune, Sept. 10*)

Education:

December 28, 1998: The World Bank has granted 100 million dollars and the African Development Bank a 35-million dollar loan for Ethiopia's implementation of the five-year education program under execution beginning last Ethiopian calendar year. The loan will be used to open 2,423 new schools and to renovate 1,220 existing ones. The student population in Ethiopia is expected to increase by about 3 million. The Ministry of Education will give special focus to girl students. It also plans to train 58,000 new teachers for the program and give skill upgrading courses to teachers on the job (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 23*).

November 30, 1998: The University College of Mekele has inaugurated building facilities

constructed at a cost of 21m birr. They include classrooms, a laboratory computer centre, theatre and cinema halls, and an agricultural research bureau. The college opened three years ago, currently conducts degree and diploma programs in six different fields for 600 students (*ENA, Nov. 23*).

October 19, 1998: Through assistance obtained from USAID, about 800 schools and over 3,000 teachers are reported to have benefited over the past years in the Tigray and Southern Ethiopia Regional States (*ENA, Oct. 14*).

October 5, 1998: W/o Genet Zewdie, Minister of Education, noted the remarkable increase of the number of student enrolment from about 6,000 to around 11,000 due to the expansion of academic institutions (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 30*).

September 28, 1998: For the next two years, American Peace Corps Volunteers will serve in Amhara, Oromiya, Southern Ethiopia, Gambella, and Benishangul Gumuz regions for teaching English (*Fiameta, Sept 23*).

6. Health

January 4, 1999: Areas in Eastern Wellega previously immune to malaria are now said to be affected by an epidemic of the disease with victims dying every day (*Tobia, Dec. 31*).

December 28, 1998: *Africa Health* magazine (November issue) has projected that 13,746,000 Ethiopians will die of AIDS in the next 10 years (*Tobia, Dec. 24*).

December 14, 1998: According to a statement of the Minister of Health, 7 % of the country's population between the ages of 15 and 49 are afflicted by HIV virus. There are over 62,000 AIDS patients in the country at present (*Addis Lissan, Dec. 2*).

December 7, 1998: The drug problem in the country is worsening with reports that Addis is turning into a production centre. 13 cannabis producers have been identified, a local publication reported. The report says drug use is high in Addis night clubs and has led to the closure of some of them. 1,343 people caught using drugs have been charged (*Addis Lissan, Nov. 28*).

December 7, 1998: The second-round national polio immunisation campaign started on December 4. It is expected that 9.1 million children will be inoculated during the three days (*VOA, Dec. 4*).

December 7, 1998: Horrendous statistics on AIDS:

- half-a-million children lost their parents to HIV/AIDS; another 620,000 will lose their

parents to the killer disease after two years;

- There are about 3 million HIV carriers and 400,000 AIDS patients in Ethiopia;

- 12 - 15 % of pregnant women are infected by the AIDS virus;

- 50 % of those who suffer from HIV/AIDS are young people (*The Monitor, Dec 3*);

- AIDS has so far claimed the lives of one million people (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 28*);

- One in every six people living in AA is an HIV carrier (*Addis Lissan, Nov. 28*).

November 30, 1998: A fearful malaria epidemic is said to be ravaging in a number of zones in Oromiya Region, killing entire families and threatening the very existence of communities. It is said that the epidemic is spreading fast in Eastern Shoa, Western Harerge, Western Shoa and in small towns only 20 km away from Addis Ababa (*Seife Nebelbal, Nov. 20*).

November 9, 1998: According to the Minister of Health, 354,000 children under five living in nine towns will be inoculated against measles. It was disclosed that 50,000 to 60,000 children are dying of measles every year (*ENA, Nov. 2*).

November 2, 1998: The health coverage in the Amhara State has increased from 28 % in 1993 to 43 % today (*Mahtot, Oct. 22*).

November 2, 1998: The World Bank has approved \$ 100m for the enhancement of health care services in Ethiopia. The money will be used for the construction and maintenance of 400 hospitals and health stations all over Ethiopia as well as for the training of health personnel (*VOA, Oct. 28*).

7. Human Rights, Religion

Freedom of Press:

November 16, 1998: A representative of Reporters sans Frontiers said that there were 14 journalist in jail at present and that two days ago two additional journalists had been taken at night and detained (*Genanaw, Nov. 6*).

November 16, 1998: The editor and deputy editor of *Tikur Dem* were released on bail after appearing at the District 1 police station in connection with stories that appeared in the paper (*Tikur Dem, Nov 9*).

November 9, 1998: Visitor from the International Federation of Journalists and the International Press Institute have reportedly met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Information and other officials. Promises reportedly made to the delegation by government officials are said to

strengthen the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (*Tobia, Nov. 5*).

October 19, 1998: In a statement, Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association has announced that 17 private journalists are presently in jail, 26 others had been forced into exile and over 20 journalists face various charges that are still pending decisions by courts (*Tobia, Oct. 15*).

Other Issues:

November 30, 1998: The legal standing committee of the House of Peoples' Representatives indicated that 330 petitions have been submitted for consideration from the public even before the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman. The chairman of the committee said the proclamations providing for the establishment of these institutions would be finalised during the second half of the year (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 25*).

November 2, 1998: Following a clash between peasants and local officials in North Omo zone over the language of instruction at schools, the people of Kentcho and Zebe were reportedly attacked by security forces and over 23,000 were forced to leave their homes. In the attack, many people lost their lives and hundreds were illegally detained, according to a report. The trouble started when peasants demanded that amharic be used to instruct their children in schools instead of the Gofa language which, they said, is alien to them (*Arbegnaw, Oct. 27*).

October 19, 1998: The chairman of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, Professor Mesfin Wolde Mariam, is reported to have resigned. During EHCRO's annual meeting, Professor Andargachew Tesfaye, a lecturer at AAU, was elected the new chairman (*Flamete, Oct. 14*). Professor Mesfin will continue to serve as an executive committee member of EHRCO (*Moresch, Oct. 14*).

8. Internal Security

January 4, 1999: A bomb has exploded in the center of Dire Dawa on December 28, when thousands of Ethiopians had converged on the city of Dire Dawa for that day's annual celebration of St. Gabriel's feast at Kulubi. The bomb killed 2 people and seriously wounded 16 others (*Ethop, Dec. 30*).

November 23, 1998: A spokesperson for the ONLF is said to have claimed that the front is engaged in a sustained armed struggle against

the Ethiopian government troops. He said that in three recent clashes over 50 Ethiopian soldiers had been killed. The front seeks to set up an Islamic government in Ogaden (*Goh, Nov. 14*).

November 16, 1998: The EPRDF-aligned OPDO is said to have decided in its recent conference to flush out OLF fighters, who have of late been active in the country's eastern regions, notably the towns of Babile, Fedis and Kombolcha (*Maebel, Nov. 7*).

September 7, 1998: Recently, ethnic conflict between the Guji and Gedeo tribes in the Borena zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State erupted affecting communities in over 38 peasant associations. The conflict is said to have caused 3,000 deaths and the displacement of around 160,000 people. The 38 peasant associations are said to have been devastated by what was described as a huge ethnic clash in that part of the country (*VOA, Aug. 28*). There had been animosity and at times conflict between the two ethnic groups since the Gedeos were resettled in Oromiya in 1960 (*Reporter, Aug. 31*).

Vereine stellen sich vor

Äthiopien, Äthiopische Selbsthilfeorganisation in Baden-Württemberg e.V.

Betrifft: Der Bau von Mohnhäusern für bedürftige obdachlose Familien

Der Verein Äthiopien, Äthiopische Selbsthilfeorganisation in Baden-Württemberg e.V. hat es sich 1994 zur Aufgabe gemacht, den extrem betroffenen obdachlosen Jugendlichen und Familien in Äthiopien zu helfen.

In Kooperation mit der ehemaligen Haile-Selassie-Vereinigung versucht der Verein etwa 100 Mitgliedern, die in bedürftigen Situationen leben, einige Familienwohnhäuser zu bauen. Diese elternlosen Jugendlichen sind von völliger Obdachlosigkeit bedroht, wenn wir nichts unternehmen.

Da wir gerade an einem Selbsthilfeprojekt arbeiten, um Wohnhäuser für die auf der Straße lebenden Kinder und Jugendliche zu bauen, wäre es von größter Wichtigkeit, wenn Sie uns bei diesem Vorhaben unterstützen könnten.

Hierbei handelt es sich um ein Selbsthilfeprojekt: der Bau eines Eigenheims für Familien, die damals als Waisenkinder der Haile-Selassie-Stiftung angehörten. Das Waisenheim wurde von der damaligen Regierung geschlossen und die Waisen befanden sich dadurch ohne irgendeine Art von staatlicher Hilfe auf der Straße.

Der Verein Äthiopien, Äthiopische Selbsthilfeorganisation e.V. hat einen Projektvorschlag zusammengetragen in Zusammenarbeit mit der ehemaligen Haile-Selassie-Stiftung, um den sich in Not befindlichen Familien zu begegnen und ihnen eine Existenzgrundlage zu vermitteln. Die Gesamtkosten des Projekts betragen 200.000,- DM. Informationsmaterial zu diesem Projekt ist vorhanden.

Wir wäre Ihnen für Ihre Unterstützung

schung nicht statt - es entsteht wenig eigenes Know-how. An diesem Punkt setzt SUPPORT AFRICA mit seiner Strategie an: Eigenes Know-how ist die Voraussetzung, damit Afrika auf eigenen Beinen stehen lernt. Wissen, Ausbildung und Forschung überdauern Regierungen und sind der Motor der Wirtschaft. Somit sind sie die Keimzellen für die Entwicklung der Märkte und die Sicherung des Friedens.

Was will SUPPORT AFRICA ?

Tel.: 06772-1480 oder 0911-415789, Fax: 06772-8680
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Buchbesprechung

von Eggert Götsch

Mc Cann, James C.

„People of the plow“

zung sehr dankbar. Unser Ansprechpartner heißt:

Eskinder Ayalew (Vorsitzender des Vereins)

Oberfeldstraße 17

76149 Karlsruhe

Tel.: 0721 - 787858

Förderung von Wissenschaft und Forschung an afrikanischen Hochschulen, damit die Hilfe zur qualifizierten Selbsthilfe Wirklichkeit werden kann.

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Seite 19

Support Africa e.V.

Afrika lebt zur Zeit von kurzfristigen Strategien. Das Wissen, um die anstehenden Probleme zu lösen, kommt fast ausschließlich von außen, oft mit westlichen Wirtschaftsinteressen verbunden. Außer an Universitäten findet For-

an Agricultural History of Ethiopia, 1800 - 1990;

298 S., ca. 80,-DM,

ISBN: 0-299-14614-6

The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, Wisconsin (USA), 1995

Der Autor, James C. McCann, ist Professor für Geschichte und Direktor des „African Studies Centre“ an der Universität von Boston. Sein Forschungsschwerpunkt ist die Agrargeschichte, insbesondere die Nordostafrikanische. Neben seiner wissenschaftlichen theoretischen Arbeit hat McCann fünf Jahre lang für verschiedene Entwicklungshilfeorganisationen in landwirtschaftlichen Projekten in Äthiopien gearbeitet. Der Autor vereinigt in seiner Person also ein immenses historisches Hintergrundwissen mit praktischem „Know-how“ aus der Arbeit vor Ort.

Für mehr als 2000 Jahre war das auf dem von Ochsen gezogenen Pflug basierende Landwirtschafts-

system Äthiopiens das effizienteste in Afrika.

In der jüngeren Vergangenheit geriet dieses System jedoch in eine schwere Krise: wiederkehrende Hungersnöte, deren Ursachen u.a. auch in Produktivitätsverlust, Bodendegradation und abnehmender Biodiversität liegen, zeigen diese Tendenz.

Das Hauptanliegen des Autors ist es, dem Leser zu verdeutlichen, wie es zu dieser Krise kommen konnte. Er konzentriert sich auf die letzten 200 Jahre und versucht herauszufinden, ob und wieweit es der „Pflugbau-Landwirtschaft“ gelang, sich z.B. auf neue Anbaufrüchte einzustellen. Hierzu untersucht McCann vor allem die Veränderung der überlieferten Anbausysteme durch die Einführung des Mais (seit ca. 1800).

Eine weitere Frage von entscheidender Bedeutung ist, wie es der traditionellen Landwirtschaft gelang, sich in den letzten 50 Jahren an das enorme Bevölkerungswachstum, die Landflucht und die damit verbundene zunehmende Verstädterung anzupassen.

Diese Geschichte der Landwirtschaft ist eingebettet in eine umfassende historische Betrachtung der Entwicklung von Umwelt und Landschaft in Äthiopien seit dem Mittelalter. Dieses Kapitel hat mich besonders fasziniert, zeigt es doch, wie es die äthiopischen Bauern immer wieder verstanden haben, ihre Nutzpflanzen, ihre Technik und ihre Arbeitsorganisation mit den häufig unzuverlässigen Klimazyklen, der sich ändernden Bodenfruchtbarkeit und den oft abrupt wechselnden politischen Rahmenbedingungen zu verbinden. Dabei ist es ihnen über Jahrhunderte gelungen, eine Form von hochangepasster nachhaltiger Landwirtschaft mit einer einzigartigen Nutzpflanzenvielfalt zu entwickeln.

Die Beschreibung dieser „guten, alten Zeit“ der äthiopischen Landwirtschaft stützt der Autor auf eine umfassende Auswertung alter Reiseberichte und Landbeschreibungen und andere historische Dokumente.

Der Einbruch der Moderne seit ca. 1940 ist gut nachvollziehbar dokumentiert an zeitgenössischen

landwirtschaftlichen Gutachten, vor allem jedoch an den Augenzeugenberichten betroffener Bauern.

Im mehr allgemein gehaltenen ersten Teil behandelt McCann Äthiopien als Ganzes, wobei der Schwerpunkt jedoch eindeutig auf den Pflugbaugebieten des Hochlandes, dem historischen „Herzland“ Äthiopiens liegt. Im zweiten Teil versucht der Autor diese allgemeinen Tendenzen an drei Regionen exemplarisch zu verdeutlichen, die ihm aus eigener Anschauung besonders vertraut sind. Diese Regionen sind

1. Ankober (Shewa)
2. Gera (Kaffa) und
3. Ada / Debre Zeyt (Shewa)

Die Tieflandgebiete (unterhalb 1500 Meter) werden nur am Rande berücksichtigt. Leider gilt dies auch für landwirtschaftlich hochinteressante Gebiete wie z.B. Konso oder Sidamo.

Das Buch ist reich ausgestattet mit Illustrationen aus historischen Reiseberichten sowie mit zahlreichen Tabellen und Karten. Die sehr umfangreiche Literaturliste (u.a. mit zahlreichen weiteren interessanten Aufsätzen des Autors) berücksichtigt alle Aspekte der Landwirtschafts- und Landschaftsgeschichte Äthiopiens.

Kurzum: „People of the Plow“ ist ein höchst lesenswertes Buch; interessant für jeden, der verstehen möchte, wie die Landschaft des äthiopischen Kernlandes, so wie sie sich heute dem Besucher darbietet, aus einer Symbiose von naturräumlichen Voraussetzungen, historisch-politischen Bedingungen und der Arbeit der Bauern entstanden ist.

Ein Kalender für den Schutz des äthiopischen Regenwaldes

Mit dem Verkauf eines Kalenders will die gemeinnützige Initiative „Enat Afer e.V.“ den Aufbau und die Ausstattung einer Imkereischule im Tropenwaldgebiet im südlichen Äthiopien unterstützen. Das Projekt wird getragen von Enat Afer und der Partnerorganisation Southern Ethiopian Environmental Protection Group (SEEPG).

Enat Afer e.V. wurde 1997 von Menschen verschiedener Nationalitäten und verschiedener Fachrichtungen zum Schutz und Erhalt tropischer Regenwälder in Göttingen gegründet.

Durch den Bau einer Imkereischule im Süden Äthiopiens soll die wirtschaftliche Lage der Menschen, die dort bislang vom Holzverkauf leben (müssen) verbessert werden. Zudem soll durch die Einführung von Imkerei ein Beitrag zum Umweltschutz in dieser Region geleistet werden. Imkereiprodukte werden in vielfältigerweise benötigt: Honig als Nahrungsmittel, zur Herstellung von Wein und Likör, Wachs für Kerzen, medizinische Produkte und verschiedene Pflegemittel. Das Projekt unterstützt also all die, die im lokalen Produktions- und Vermarktungskreis mitarbeiten.

Der Kalender besteht aus handgeschnitzten Linoldrucken und ist sowohl mit dem europäischen wie auch dem äthiopischen Kalender versehen.

Zu beziehen ist der Kalender über die Berliner Projektgruppe von Enat Afer e.V.

**Monika Ebertowski, Körtestr. 8,
10967 Berlin,
Tel/Fax: 030-694 49 17**

Buchtips

Teret-Teret

Märchen - Fabeln - Parabeln aus Äthiopien

Worte und Geschichten haben in einem afrikanischen Dorf ohne Fernsehen und Zeitungen große Bedeutung. In ihnen werden Lebenserfahrungen in schlichter Weise lebendig. Adelheid und Kefelew Zelleke haben 26 Geschichten übersetzt und zu einer Broschüre zusammengestellt. „Teret-Teret“ eignet sich zum Vorlesen in Kindergärten und Schulen.

**Bestelladresse: Aethiopia e.V.
Äthiopischer Kulturverein,
Forellwstr. 34, 53123 Bonn
Schutzgebühr incl. 5,00 DM**

Im Belser-Verlag ist jetzt im Herbst der kulturgeschichtliche Bildband

Äthiopien - Kultur, Religion, Geschichte

erschienen.

Der Bildband vereint brillante Photographien mit den sachkundig fundierten Texten eines ausgewiesenen Äthiopienkenners: Frank W. Lemke ist Radiojournalist und war lange Zeit in Äthiopien tätig.

Zeugnisse aus sechs Jahrtausenden menschlicher Geschichte zeigen Äthiopien in seiner ethnischen Bevölkerungsvielfalt als eine der bemerkenswertesten Kulturnationen der Welt. Bei der Lektüre lassen sich die Wasserfälle im Quellgebiet des blauen Nils, die rätselhaften Stelen von Axum oder die Felsenkirchen in Lalibela bestaunen. Impressionen von Fauna und Flora der abwechslungsreichen Topographie runden den opulenten Bildband ab.

Zu beziehen über den Buchhandel oder direkt bei BELSER-Verlag, Postfach 100561, 70004 Stuttgart, Preis: 68,-DM

Sounds of Saba „Tizita“

Die erste CD des Musikprojekts Sounds of Saba

Live-Mitschnitte der Konzerte in Limburg und Lich im Sommer '98 wurden im Studio soweit bearbeitet, daß nun die erste CD produziert werden konnte. Die Musik von Sounds of Saba basiert überwiegend auf traditionellen äthiopischen Songs, die von der Gruppe neu arrangiert und mit modernen europäischen Rhythmen unterlegt wurden. Die Produktion der CD wurde durch die großzügige finanzielle Unterstützung des hessischen Komikers Martin Schneider ermöglicht.

Im Februar wird Sounds of Saba mehrere Konzerte in Addis Abeba und Umgebung haben, die mit Unterstützung der GTZ organisiert werden. Ab Juni wird die Gruppe auch in Deutschland wieder zu hören sein.

Zu beziehen ist die CD „Tizita“ über Michael Ehret, Tel/Fax: 06421-21836 zum Preis von 30,-DM

Nächste Ausgabe

Die nächsten „Informationsblätter des Deutsch-Äthiopischen Ver-

eins“ sollen Ende Mai erscheinen. Das Schwerpunktthema soll die

Schul- und Berufsausbildung

in Äthiopien behandeln. Die Redaktion bittet um Mithilfe bei der Bearbeitung dieses Themenkomplexes in Form von Artikeln, Vorschlägen, Hilfestellungen.

Erinnert sei an das

Äthiopien-Seminar und die Mitgliederversammlung

des Deutsch-Äthiopischen Vereins e.V.

Beides wird stattfinden in der Jugendherberge Kassel, Schenkendorfstraße 18.

Datum: **12.-14.März 1999**

Anmeldungen sind auch kurzfristig noch möglich. Nähere Informationen können beim Vorstand oder der Redaktion der „Blätter“ erfragt werden.

Letzte Meldungen