

Aug. 20, 1986

Dear Comrade Mohammed,

I extend to you, Caaltuu, and to all Oromos and friends living in that part of the world my warmest revolutionary greetings. I also relay the greetings of the comrades around here.

Let me start by thanking you for your last letter written from London. I hope you will accept my apologies for a delayed response. The only constraint has been lack of time and not the lack of will. Congratulations on your excellent piece on Oromo history. All those who have read it were impressed with the depth of information and the lucidity of the language, so much so, that attempts are underway to translate it to reach a wider audience. I hope that comrade Diima has asked your permission to do so in his letter. If not, I am requesting your opinion on the matter. As you can imagine, the most we can do is to prepare booklets in cyclostyle form-which will in no way compete with materials presented in print and in English at that. On the other hand the availability of such material in Oromiffa will enrich our members' knowledge of our people's history. With this in mind its translation is proceeding and we hope to get your blessing.

I was in the field for several months during the summer. It is always a pleasure to be there for every time I visit I notice some progress although never completely satisfied. Conditions are improvingly favoring our growth. Learning from our experience of 1977-78 we are trying to make qualitative development to keep pace with the quantitative expansion which is not easy but very imperative.

We are also trying to transform some recent disadvantages into advantages. The attempt to disrupt our supply line was intended to contain our expansion. As to most wars of the kind, to date, only

the opposite has been achieved. We are waiting for the enemy to play its new cards to make our counter moves. If handled dispassionately the game could be quite exciting.

Yet it is not easy to keep passion out of the game. The two prolonged offensive against our society's resettlement and villegization, are threatening the very existence of our people as a nation. The magnitude of the danger fuels the tendency to overstretch one's resources and organizational structure. Unless handled properly this could be playing right into the hands of the enemy. On the other hand the rate at which our country's human and material resources are being plundered necessitates a lot of urgent moves. We have a dilemma in our hands.

With the danger facing our nation and the modest expansions of our work in the two fields and in foreign countries, eliminating our organization's barely concealable weaknesses has become even more imperative. During our last discussion I remember giving you an honest appraisal of the situation. Attempts to overcome this shortcoming dates back to 1980. Tragic events such as the martyrdom of some of our leaders and the deterioration of relations with the Somali government have delayed the materialization of this vision. After 1982, the closure of our offices in SDR, and after ascertaining the survival of our western field-we started tinkering with models that reflect objective reality of our movement. After extended correspondence with our leaders in the Eastern field we seem to now have arrived at an organizational formula that, we hope, will take us into the next phase of the struggle. The full details will be made public in due course.

The new formula will open opportunities for direct participation of our militants residing abroad in organizational matters. This brings me to the whole purpose of writing this letter. As you know, various unions have now applied to formalize their relations with the Front. Yet much needs to be done to elevate the consciousness members. With limits, the same holds true for the Front as well. Yet the

very nature of the work itself imposes a certain level of maturity on any ordinary member of the Front. In addition, the necessary checks exist with the Front to guard against the misuse of information.

Against this backdrop, I am soliciting your advice on how to enhance the direct participation of the unions in the struggle. Our objectives are two fold: (1) to organically link the unions and the Front – which can be achieved for example by unions sending delegates to our organizational conferences. Other than the legal bond that this creates it also opens opportunities for some delegate members to be elected into the Front's offices. This, of course, makes the election of properly qualified and motivated delegates a weighty task. (2) The chance now exists for any person coming forward to shoulder responsibilities on his own volition and merit. While this will allow us to absorb new blood it will give the concerned militants the chance of directly contributing to the formulation and implementation of the movement's policies.

At this point things are too tenuous to formally communicate these to union leadership (which will be done at its appropriate time). In the meantime, it will be of great help to get your assessment on the outcome of such an effort. Your acquaintance with the unions on both side of the Atlantic qualifies you better than anybody else to do so. Knowing the nature of our society I need not stress to you the absolute confidentiality of this communication.

Finally, P.T.W. Baxter was here and updated us on the progress of publishing your thesis. We are overjoyed and consider it our success as well. We are eager to read it in final form. We are also informed of your heavy work load. All the same rest assured that we will take the liberty of distracting you from time to time. May the creator give you the patience of bearing with our distraction. On this note I end my distraction of the day. Please greet everybody for us and especially, AaddeeCaaltuu.

Singed, Y. L. Wakeyo