EXCERPTS FROM E.F.L.N.A. STATEMENT

The 9th Congress of the Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA) is historic in that it was the culmination of over a year and a half of fierce internal struggle between the leadership of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and our mass organization on major questions of strategy and tactics of the Eritrean revolution, on the question of the Soviet-led revisionists and their aggression against our country, on the question of identifying the friends and enemies of our revolution and combating revisionism, on the question of peaceful negotiations with the fascist Ethiopian junta.

The Congress strongly condemned the various machinations against our revolution and vehemently denounced the capitulation of the EPLF and the ELF leaderships to the Soviet revisionists and their Cuban and East German puppets. The Congress resolved to expose this traitorous crime against the heroic Eritrean people, who are persisting on the road of armed struggle, and affirmed their determination to fight against all enemies of the Eritrean revolution.

The 9th Congress of AESNA has resolved to sever all ties with the capitulationist leadership of the EPLF, to call upon the Eritrean masses to oppose by all means the present machinations against our revolution, and called on all genuine supporters and friends of our revolution to follow closely the present developments in Eritrea, to work to expose the capitulationist leadership of EPLF and Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), and firmly support the just and revolutionary struggle of the Eritrean people for national independence and liberation.

Meanwhile, a New York-based research organization has published a report examining the participation of 100 U.S. banks in loans, trade credits, and bonds for South Africa. The authors, Corporate Data Exchange (CDE), have compiled virtually all publicly-available information to identify the top ten lenders as well as 19 banks not previously cited as involved in South African loans.

As the authors themselves acknowledge, however, their data is not complete. "Due to the inadequacy of disclosure regulations," they note, "the bulk of lending activity proceeds without public documentation."

The listing that CDE provides are nevertheless expected to be widely used this fall as the campaign against U.S. loans to South Africa is resumed. In a CDE release, the director of the national group coordinating the campaign, Prexy Nesbitt of the Coalition to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, calls the handbook "indispensible."

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO RAIDS SOUTHERN MOROCCO

[AN] The government of Morocco has prompted renewed concern at the United Nations that the war over Western Sahara will escalate, despite hopeful diplomatic signs in recent weeks.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, the Moroccan mission to the UN confirmed that a military supply detail recently fell into an ambush at a point near the Draa River, well within southern Morocco. An earlier communique by the POLISARIO independence movement first described the incident, claiming that 24 Moroccans were killed, four taken prisoner, and substantial quantities of arms captured.

Most of the war's fighting occurs in Western Sahara itself, where Morocco and Mauritania are trying to wrest control of the phosphate-rich territory from POLISARIO guerrillas. However, POLISARIO has always claimed to be able to penetrate northern Mauritania and southern Morocco at will.

Morocco's letter makes no mention of the independence movement, but blames the raid on "members of the Algerian army." In a lightly veiled threat it said that the government of King Hassan would remain neither silent nor passive, and that it will hold "those who perpetrated and executed this act widely and solely responsible for it and for the consequences which may derive from it."

Those observers who are hoping that a current series of peace talks between Mauritania and POLISARIO will lead to all-party negotiations now fear that Morocco may attack neighboring Algeria. Such a move would likely widen the war, and raise the possibility of big power confrontation in the Mediterranean area.

CHAD *continued from page 2*

settlement.

Political analysts are skeptical that the new move will bring any substantive change. They say the military regime is thoroughly discredited in the eyes of most of the population, and Habre's participation will make little difference, especially to FROLINAT.

General Malloum, chairman of the Supreme Military Council, said last week that the new government would defend Chad's territorial integrity, form a constituent assembly, and work towards democracy and reconciliation.

ERITREA *continued from page 2*

but centered on two criticisms the student groups leveled at the EPLF leadership.

First, they say the independence leaders refuse to identify Cuba and the Soviet Union as enemies of the Eritrean people, although both are supporting the Ethiopian government. The American-based groups charge, for example, that Cuba is already much more heavily involved in front-line fighting than the EPLF leadership will admit publicly.

Second, EFLNA and AEWNA say that secret talks in East Berlin in January, March and June between EPLF and Ethiopian officials was a betrayal of the Eritrean people. They argue that the EPLF-sponsored People's Assembly in January, held inside Eritrea with broad representation from all parts of the territory, prohibited such meetings except on the basis of negotiations for complete independence.

The EPLF says the sessions were merely a presentation of its viewpoint, and did not represent substantive negotations.

The EFLNA/AEWNA stand separates them not only from the independence forces inside Eritrea but also from the much larger organization of Eritreans in western Europe who met in Italy on the same weekend and took positions supporting the EPLF leadership.

Some among the Eritreans in North America worry that the activist students will now find no way to relate to the independence struggle, and will drift into non-political involvements. They argued in favor of continuing to oppose the EPLF leadership from within the ranks of the movement.

But even those who were reluctant to make the break wanted to avoid creating factions within the North American groups. And with the tide running against them, they abandoned their arguments.