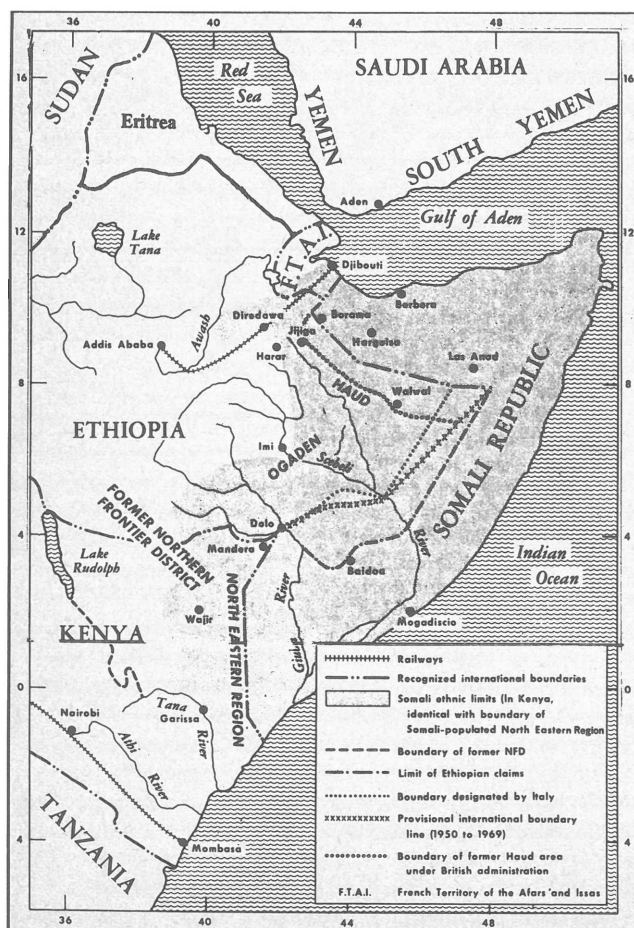


The economy is in shambles. Resources, which are limited anyway, have been devoted to keeping Barre in power and filling the pockets of his relatives through corruption and mismanagement. After Somalia was placed under IMF rule, exports have come to a near standstill; local industrial and agricultural production is at its lowest for decades. Foreign debts have skyrocketed. The exodus of skilled personnel now occurring is a new phenomenon in Somalia's history, one with far-reaching consequences.

In view of the regime's isolation and mismanagement, there are US efforts to replace Barre with a more acceptable leader. So far it has been impossible to find anyone who could unite the country, for the possible candidates are thugs, fighting each other for their own power. Yet the US may still try to effect a cosmetic change. A change by the Somali National Movement which enjoys total popular support is the only salvation for the Somali people.

Conduit for the Zionist-apartheid connection

On the external front, Siad Barre's regime is suffering from total isolation in the Arab and African world as a result of its recent connections with Israel and South Africa. The regime wants military equipment and know-how from these two fascist states for fighting the Somali National Movement. Israel and South Africa are now training and equipping anti-guerilla forces for the regime. South African airlines now lands in Mogadishu. In view of South African-Israeli cooperation in nuclear power, there are reports that nuclear material is being transferred through Mogadishu. This makes Barre's regime the most dangerous one for the African and Arab peoples.



What impact did the overthrow of Numeiri in Sudan have in Somalia?

It is reported that CIA officials and other agents stationed in Sudan to fight Ethiopia, Democratic Yemen, Mozambique, were transferred to Mogadishu. On the other hand, the fall of Numeiri was a big blow for Barre, because they are of the same kind. Barre got panicky and Numeiri's overthrow was not even announced on the radio. Three days later, there was a news item that there was a new president in Sudan.

We ourselves were very happy, and we commend our Sudanese brothers for their victory. This was a good example for the Somali people that the people's will triumphs in the end, despite all the imperialist support given to a dictator.

How did you develop the armed struggle?

The Somali National Movement at birth included senior military officers. The majority of our forces are defectors from the Somali army. All our military supplies are captured from the army or brought by defectors. Thus we began with a trained nucleus. We have training centers inside the country to transform our forces to guerilla warfare, allied to the mass movement. Armed struggle is essential in our effort to bring down the regime.

What is your position on the Palestinian revolution, and concerning the present differences where the right wing seeks a settlement through the Jordanian option, while the majority of the resistance organizations are for continuing the liberation struggle?

Our support to the Palestinian people's struggle is a matter of principle, included in our political program. Concerning the present situation, we condemn all surrendering policies from Camp David to the Amman agreement and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We fully support the unity of the PLO on its anti-imperialist line. We believe that the Amman agreement will never bring success to the Palestinian people. We support the Palestinian factions that oppose this accord. We consider the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, and the Aden-Algiers agreement as the reference for restoring the unity of the PLO. We totally oppose capitulationist steps that put the PLO in the Camp David group of Arab reactionary forces.