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of RATANOV, A.P.

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RECORD OF CONVERSATION  
With the Ambassador of Cuba in Ethiopia  
JOSE PERES NOVOA

February 10, 1977

During a conversation which took place in the Soviet Embassy, Jose Peres Novoa reported that on February 8 he had visited Mengistu Haile Mariam at the latter's request.

Mengistu requested that the Ambassador pass on to Fidel Castro a verbal message in which the PMAC requests Cuba to provide assistance to the Ethiopian People's Militia via deliveries of small arms. In this regard Mengistu declared that the Americans had already refused to provide spare parts for tanks, had suspended deliveries of spare parts for all kinds of weapons, and the PMAC expects the USA, after the events of February 3, to apply even harsher sanctions against Ethiopia. At the same time the USA is providing military assistance to Sudan, Kenya, and is encouraging officials of the these and other countries against the Ethiopian regime.

The PMAC, reported Mengistu, intends to follow Cuba's example of creating in factories and agencies, and in villages, committees for defense of the revolution, which will act in close contact with detachments of the people's militia, which are formed under the supervision of urban and rural associations. However, the effectiveness of conducting these measures will depend on whether the PMAC has available and at its disposal the necessary quantity of weapons.

AMBASSADOR OF THE USSR IN ETHIOPIA

[signature]  
(A. RATANOV)

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To the archive  
A. Krasnova  
XI.24.77

[signature]  
(E. Kachugin)  
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Informational material.  
In the International Department, CC  
CPSU we have become familiar with it.  
Head of sector  
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P. Maichkha