

July 14, 1978

Minutes of Meeting of CPSU CC Politburo (excerpt)

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Summary:

A general conversation amongst Politburo members regarding the current state of relations with the Ethiopian regime and how it could be improved. (excerpt)

Original Language:

Russian

Contents:

Translation - English

MEETING OF THE CC CPSU POLITBURO 14 July 1978 Chaired by Com. KIRILENKO, A.P.
Attended by Coms. Andropov, Iu.V., Kulakov, F.D., Mazurov, K.T., Demichev, P.N.,
Kuznetsov, V.V., Ponomarev, B.N., Solomentsev, M.S., Chernenko, K.Y., Dolgikh, V.I.,
Zimianin, M.V., Riabov, Ia.P., Rusakov, K.V[...] 9. About Measures for the Future
Strengthening of Soviet-Ethiopian Relations KIRILENKO. Coms. Gromyko,
Andropov, and Ponomarev have presented this issue. MAL'TSEV says that
the Ethiopians are behaving incorrectly in Eritrea. They are campaigning against
providing autonomy to Eritrea. They have begun military actions there. There are
not conducting an entirely correct policy in the Ogaden either. Military actions are
taking place somewhere there against Somalia. KIRILENKO. Mengistu is still not
sufficiently experienced, but at the same time he is a very sensitive person, therefore
it is just necessary to educate him, to teach him. ANDROPOV. It is in the same
way important to show Mengistu that we are on his side. PONOMAREV.
Yesterday the Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of Cuba, Vivo Valdez visited
me. He had been in Ethiopia. In Cuba he received instructions. He is returning
there. Vivo said that Cuba will not undertake to do anything in Ethiopia without the
preliminary agreement with the Soviet Union. In relation to the fact that our
Ambassador in Ethiopia Com. Ratanov has taken ill, and has been in Moscow for three
months already, it is apparently necessary to think about sending another comrade
there. ANDROPOV. Ambassador to Ethiopia Com. Ratanov has already gotten
better, he can go. But overall it evidently makes sense for the MFA to think about a
new ambassador. KIRILENKO. I think that, you, Com. Mal'tsev, will take
measures now to send there one of the comrades, say, an advisor, the most
experienced, who could help Com. Ratanov. The draft of the resolution is
accepted.