International Page

Coup attempt in Ethiopia crushed

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — President Mengistu Haile Mariam, rounding up 200,000 Addis Ababa residents for a rally celebrating his victory over a military revolt, said Saturday he would "let the people decide" the fate of the rebellion's leaders.

Mengistu's Marxist government was quickly consolidating its position after loyalist forces in the northern city of Asmara broke the back of the four-day uprising and killed six generals who had led the 150,000-man Northern Command into revolt, according to official broadcasts.

The Ethiopian News Agency reported the Northern Command not only had ended its rebellion but staged a mass rally in support of the government Friday in Asmara.

There were unconfirmed reports the 80,000-man Eastern Command based at Harer, which earlier was believed to be backing the coup, switched back to the government side after the rebellion collapsed in Asmara.

Mengistu, noted for his ruthless suppression of opposition in the past, told the crowd of some 200,000 people that several senior officers had committed suicide and that others "are under arrest and will be brought to justice."

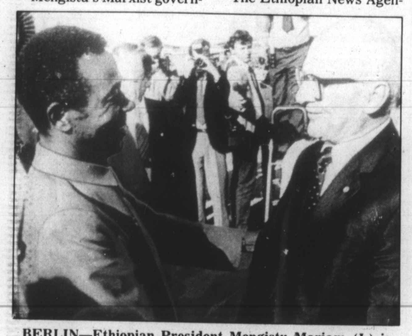
Diplomats, who asked not to be identified, said rally organizers moved through the streets Friday night telling residents to report early Saturday to their "cabelles," or neighborhood committees, and that crowds were led from there to the rally.

The streets were decked out with thousands of flags and banners normally seen only once a year to celebrate the anniversary of the revolution that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

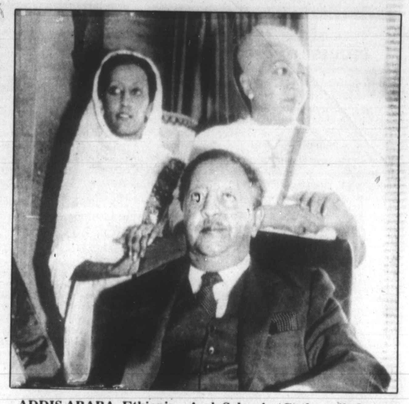
Foreign Minister Beratu Bayih told foreign diplomats at a briefing in Addis Ababa Friday that "everything is under control and there is calm throughout the country. The armed forces are solidly behind the party and the government."

Bayih confirmed to the diplomats that two coup ringleaders — armed forces chief Maj. Gen. Herid Negusie and air force commander Maj. Gen. Ahma Desta—were killed at the start of the coup Tuesday, in Addis "while resisting arrest."

Famine - striken Ethiopia ranks as one of the poorest countries in the world with an annual per capita income of $100.—(UPI).



BERLIN—Ethiopian President Mengistu Mariam (L) is greeted by East German President Erich Honecker on arrival in East Berlin. It happened while the coup attempt was going on in the Ethiopian capital.



ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—Amh Selassie (C) the exiled son of the late Haile Selassie, who announced his coronation as Emperor of Ethiopia on May 5. He had pledged to oust the Marxist government and retore a constitutional monarchy. (File photo of Amha and his family).

Pvt. Ricky D. Rosser has arrived for duty in West Germany.

He is a wire system installer with the 63rd Signal Battalion.

Rosser is the son of Martha P. and James Rosser of 807 Erich Road, Richmond.

The private is a 1987 graduate of Hugeunot High School.

Rights abuses in Somalia says GAO

During a civil conflict in its northern region last year, the Government of Somalia systematically shelled, bombed, and destroyed large residential communities and summarily executed fleeing civilians, according to a General Accounting Office study.

In the aftermath of this indiscriminate destruction, Hargeisa, formerly the second largest city in Somalia, is now a virtual "ghost town" that is still without water or electricity.

According to the GAO, Hargeisa is being dismantled piece by piece with extensive looting in militarily controlled areas.

The GAO reports that, "$1.4 million worth of small arms and ammunition was provided (by the United States Government) to the government of Somalia during the height of the conflict."

According to the GAO, a senior Somali military official confirmed that, "U.S. equipment was distributed to troops in the north and was used during the conflict."

About 350,000 Somali refugees fled to Ethiopia within a few weeks and have no plans whatsoever for repatriation.According to the report, based on field work in Ethiopia and Somalia, the precondition for their return would be removal of the army from northern Somalia.

Refugees told GAO investigators that assurances of safety and gestures of good will by the Somali government could not be trusted and "cosmetic steps at rapprochement were meaningless in light of the trauma they had endured."

Interviews with Somali refugees in Ethiopia by the GAO revealed a long-standing pattern of human rights violations by the Somali army. These abuses provided the context for the insurgency that began in May 1988.

Tutu, Bush meet

WASHINGTON—South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu at his meeting with President Bush in the Oval Office last week.

WASHINGTON — A buoyed Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu met with President Bush at the White House Thursday and later reported Bush promised to be a "catalyst for change" in bringing an end to apartheid in South Africa.

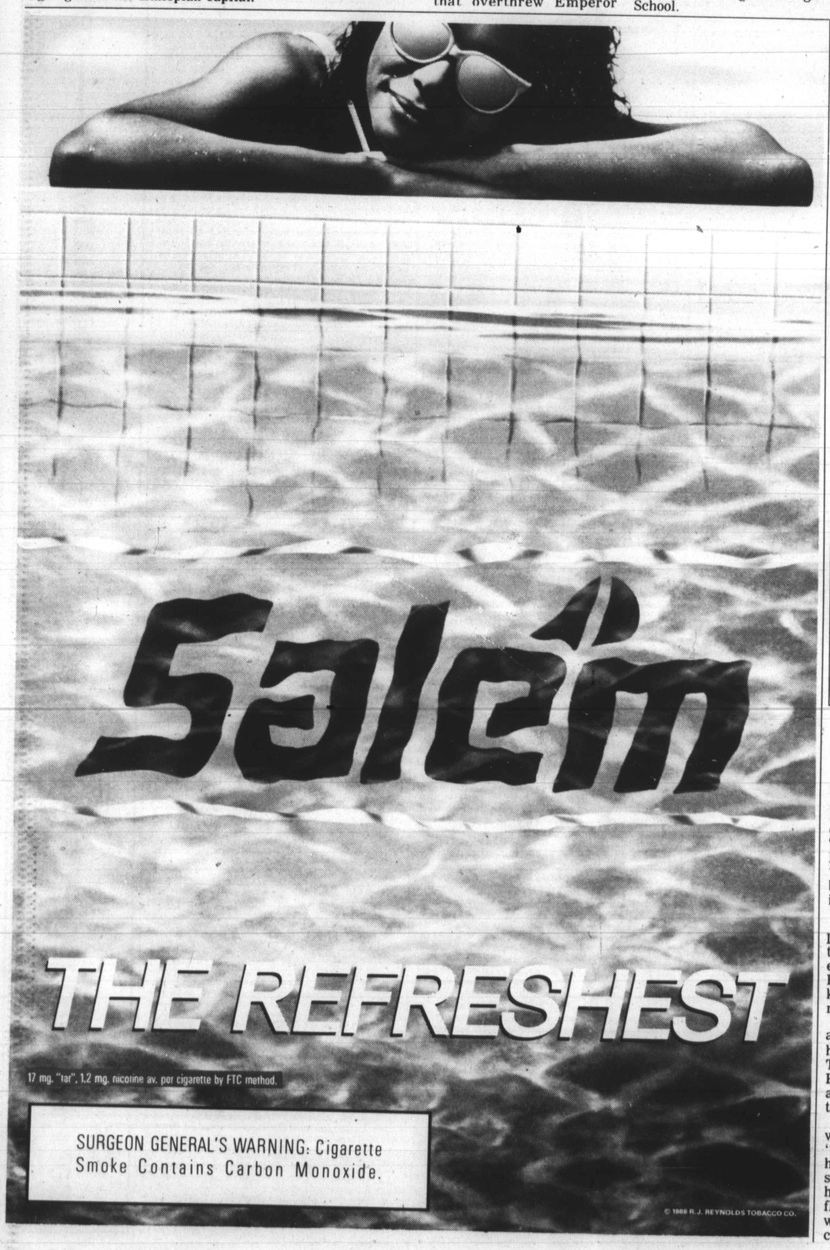
Tutu was accompanied by Dr. Alan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Rev. C. F. Beyers Naude, an Afrikaner cleric, for the 15-minute meeting in the Oval Office.

While reflecting happiness at finding a new climate for his cause at the White House, Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner, declined to give any details or specifics of the talk with Bush.

"I had a very good meeting with the president," he said, "one in which he expressed his total concern about the situation in South Africa and he said he didn't want to reflect benign disinterest but would actively work to be a catalyst with South Africa.

"It was good to hear him say he wants to put it straight on the table . . . (that) the abhorrence of apartheid is total in this country," the archbishop added. "He wants to be a catalyst for change.

"We said we wanted the United States to take the moral leadership in bringing South Africa to the negotiating table. We think the door is ajar," Tutu said — complaining it "wasn't open" during President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Tutu sought the meeting with Bush to urge him to wage a diplomatic and moral campaign to end South Africa's system of racial segregation. He said he was impressed to hear from Bush "what could be the possibility for change . . . what influence he could exercise on the South African government."

On Capitol Hill Wednesday, Tutu met with congressional and civil rights leaders and compared cooperation with South Africa's government to working with Nazi Germany.