

# Haile Selassie Not Quite So Absolute

## Modern Democracy Stirring in Ethiopia

By WEBB MCKINLEY  
Of the Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — The first, faint stirrings of modern democracy are coming to Ethiopia and are heartening this ancient country's well-wishers.

Here in the strange highlands of the African horn it is no longer quite true to call his Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I one of the last of the absolute monarchs.

The constitutional government he created in name 32 years ago is emerging at last as an infant fact.

Groping and uncertain as it still is, it could if it grows save Ethiopia from a long-predicted explosion.

Recently the Ethiopian lower house of 251 members debated for two days a change in the penal code. The government, meaning presumably the Emperor, wanted an amendment that would permit public flogging of rumormongers.

Parliament voted it down.

Next day this surprising body rejected a tax on building materials also badly wanted by the government.

Those who take these as heartening signs admit they are mere beginnings. They are also in their way dramatic events which probably annoy but one day may be welcomed by the 71-year-old monarch.

Since he became regent as Ras Tafari in 1916 the ruler

has tried with tremendous will to pull his country out of its feudal rut.

Potentially Ethiopia is one of Africa's blessed countries. Its soil is fertile, its tradition proud, its people quick and its climate fine. Sitting on a plateau 8,000 feet above the storied Red Sea coast, Addis lives in continual springtime.

But the same highland isolation that has kept this country independent for a legendary 3,000 years has also kept it backward.

Except for a first-rate, American-managed air service, its communications are appalling. Despite progress in education since the war, its people are still 95 per cent illiterate.

Landlords, peasants and prelates of the Ethiopian Coptic church have opposed reforms. Until 1957 there were no elections.

Loaded with old guerrilla fighters to whom the Emperor felt gratitude, the bureaucracy has been chaotic.

Faced with these handicaps, the Emperor in years past has run Ethiopia alone. He has worked day and night, looking personally into almost every plan and contract, appointing the most minor officials, receiving humble petitioners.

Now he shows signs of wanting to share his work. He has publicly called on ministers to make their own decisions. Some are doing it.

Cautiously, against conservative inertia, he is making other moves toward reform. Labor unions, banned until 1962, are now permitted. A new pension plan is shucking some excess from the bureaucracy. A new civil service plan has been introduced.

Helped by about \$2 million of American aid, Haile Selassie I University was founded in December 1961.

The educated class is growing.

Partly because of this, the line of the Lion of Judah faces constant dangers.

The independent-minded and relatively educated province

of Eritrea, giving Ethiopia its only outlet to the sea, is stirring unhappily because of its incorporation last November into the empire. This happened when the Eritrean parliament met and unanimously voted to dissolve itself. There were reportedly 17 of 52 deputies on hand for the vote.

Bigger trouble has loomed for years in Addis. Here one hears whispers—"They are preparing for the second round."

They could only refer to the revolt in December 1960 of the imperial body guard. This the Emperor squashed simply by returning from a trip to Brazil and exerting his enormous personal force.

The younger officers or intellectuals, who compare their country unhappily with more advanced African states, may now be playing a waiting game.

With parliament stirring to life and the country moving slowly toward reform, many appear content to wait for the succession of Crown Prince Merid Azmach Asfaw Wosen. The quiet, 48-year-old heir is a puzzle to outsiders. In the 1960 revolt he was put up by the rebels as a puppet, but later insisted he accepted the role only with a gun in his back. He is widely believed, at any rate, to favor a constitutional monarchy.

Whatever happens even the restless young men of Addis admit that Haile Selassie I, the King of Kings, the conquering Lion of Judah, by a superb personal effort has pulled his country into the modern age. There could hardly be another like him.



Haile Selassie

## Aussies Fidgety Over Their Destiny; Leaning More to U.S. Than Britain

By WILL GRIMSLEY  
Of the Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia—Australians still guzzle beer as if afraid the taps will run dry, follow the horses with a passion and live on the beaches like a sect of sun-worshippers. But they're growing fidgety about their destiny.

"I am sick of hearing about what great sportsmen we Australians are," said a well-groomed matron. "I'm fed up with winning the Davis Cup, beating the British in cricket and setting world records in swimming."

"When are we going to do something really constructive—like putting a man in orbit or sending a gadget to the Moon? Why can't we make great advances in science, art and literature like the Russians and Americans?"

Someone else interjected:

"Remember, we're just a young country, less than 200 years old. We've made remarkable progress in that time. We're a nation of only 10 million people. What more can one expect?"

An Australian business executive tinkled the ice in his scotch and soda and said:

"Yes, and when another war breaks out we'll expect the Yanks to come down and bail us out again. Let's face it. We're more closely aligned with America than with Britain. I wonder when we will be annexed as the 51st state."

"Heaven help us," came a sharp dissenting voice. "Who needs or wants all that drive? I think we're much happier as we are—or rather, were. I'll admit our way of life is being changed by American influences and, frankly, I resent it."

Thus, the virile, sports-loving people on the remote island continent debate their possible role in the jet age.

They seem to get a big thrill when they

feel President Kennedy has adopted a hard nose policy, as in the recent Cuban crisis. They get uneasy when Premier Khrushchev talks about his rockets. There's not the slightest question how they would line up if the cold war became a hot one.

Although seemingly removed from the hot spots of world tensions, Australians look over their shoulders as if expecting an Asian wave to engulf them. They haven't forgotten the threat of the Japanese in the last war.

Today they are more concerned about Indonesians.

"There are 40 million of them and 10 million of us," a man said. "The only buffer between us are the Malaysians, who are lovers, not fighters. It's the fear of the United States which is keeping the Indonesians off our necks."

Although Australians hang pictures of Queen Elizabeth II in almost every foyer, toast their monarch at formal dinners and give her fierce loyalty, they cannot escape the American influence. The movies are from Hollywood, the television programs from New York and most of the night club acts fresh from the floodlights of American bistros. Sky-scrapers are stabbing into the skies over Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and even far-off Perth, on the West Coast. The continent hums with American industry.

You can get a hot hamburger and cola on Castlereigh Street in Sydney or a rich chocolate malted on Collins Street in Melbourne. Australians now drink as much coffee as tea—and the coffee no longer tastes like iodine.

"They tell us Australia is like America was back at the turn of the century," Australians say with mixed pride and apology.



(AP Wirephoto) ETHIOPIA—Map centers on Ethiopia, the African nation ruled by Haile Selassie, one of the last absolute monarchs. The ruler has tried tremendously to pull his country out of its ancient rut since he became regent in 1916. He has made moves toward reform and faint stirrings of modern democracy are coming to the nation.

By THOMAS J. STONE  
Of the Associated Press

## Perez Godoy's Stated Aim

### Political Stability Needed in Peru

LIMA, Peru—The elements of revolution were there and the time was ripe. Strikes plagued the nation. Civil guards and Castro-type guerrillas fought a virtual war in the heart of the ancient Inca empire.

One danger was that the spark would ignite the passions and hatreds of nearly three million Indians, desperately poor descendants of the Incas whose civilization flourished centuries ago.

Restlessness among them grew. They attacked big haciendas and threatened their white owners.

At La Oroya, high in the

Andes, strikes broke out at the U. S.-owned Cerro de Pasco Corp. mining complex. Clashes killed 1 man and injured 18 others. Saboteurs' bombs caused an estimated \$4 million damage.

Peru's military government seemed oblivious to it all.

"The Communists are to blame for all the trouble and nobody is doing anything about it." This was the cry in Lima.

Then, as the country neared the brink of real trouble, Gen. Ricardo Perez Godoy, president of the governing junta, struck. After midnight last weekend gov-

ernment forces rounded up Communists, suspected Communists and other extremists—from cities along the coast to the hamlets in the snow-capped Andes.

By the junta's account, the Communists had planned the real thing. A sweeping revolution, a lightning takeover—a giant victory parade on in the middle of May in Lima.

The government announced the arrest of 400 persons. The Peruvian press placed the number seized as high as 1,800.

"If this means the Communists in Peru have been smashed we are all right," said a banker. "We've got a good economy. With the leftists out of the way we should have no trouble."

But U.S. businessmen still were worried that the spark for revolution remains alive.

"We were planning to build a quarter million dollar plant here, but the country is too unsettled," one American said. "After all the trouble broke out we decided to look elsewhere."

An executive of one of the two U.S. tire manufacturers considering substantial investments here said: "We're waiting until the situation is clarified."

Two suspected leaders of the plot—Solomon Bolo Hidalgo, a defrocked priest, and Genaro Carnero Checo—were still at large. They could keep the revolutionary spark alive but right now the extremists apparently were without an organized leadership.

Peru, a nation of nearly 6½ million people, is generally better off than other Latin American countries. It has a diversified economy—mining, fish meal, cotton and sugar. The economy is booming. Wages are at a record high. Dollar reserves—that is, money that can be used to buy goods from abroad and act as well as a platform for Peru's own currency—are satisfactory.

With political stability and U.S. help, Peru—so its leaders say—could become one of the more economically advanced

nations on a continent fraught with potential upheaval.

But the nation, extending some 1,150 miles along South America's Pacific Coast, has been troubled for centuries by racial tensions. The Spanish settled Peru, crushed the advanced Inca civilization and stripped the Andes of its gold. The once-proud Indian was reduced to subservience.

Many work the white man's sugar plantations now. The Indian is paid a wage and gets a food ration. Communism plays on the resentment in the Indian breast.

The white man has his own troubles in Peru.

After a six-year democratic reign, President Manuel Prado was overthrown by Perez Godoy's military junta last July. It claimed the presidential elections for Prado's successor were fraudulent.

Perez Godoy says free elections will be held within a year—that his junta will have achieved its aims by then and will step down.

"They will find some excuse to stay in power"—such is the type of thing you hear, however.

Perez Godoy has suspended civil liberties that permit political campaigning. There is no indication the suspension will be lifted soon.



(AP Wirephoto) MINE—Map locates La Oroya (underline) where heavy damage was done during strikes at the U.S.-owned Cerro de Pasco mining complex in Peru.



Gen. Ricardo Perez Godoy

## Government Extending Control in India

### Stern Approach Worries Some Indians

By HENRY S. BRADSHAW  
Of the Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — "Take my savings and buy bullets to shoot down the Chinese," said the young widow of an Indian soldier killed in the invasion of India.

The savings that Mrs. Ladwati Devi contributed to the National Defense Fund totaled about 50 rupees, or \$10.

A blind man named Achiah who lives near the Bay of Bengal gave his savings—150 rupees.

A schoolboy, too poor to contribute, skipped classes one day to break stones, and gave his one rupee (21 cents) earnings to the defense fund.

These individual contributions are reported by Indian government publicity officers but there is other evidence the masses of India have been aroused enough by the Chinese attack to make sacrifices for their country. Several foreigners who have lived with India people in different parts of the country and their own stories of contributions by rickshaw pullers and coconut gatherers.

The government is seeking to keep people aroused and willing to continue working for defense during the truce on the Himalayan border.

If the common man is aroused, the government is none too happy with the response of some rich Indians who have made only token contributions. Most noted is the Nizam of Hyderabad, who has a reputation both of being fabulously wealthy and of being a miser. He said he was too poor, what with all his pensioners and hangers on, to contribute as much as the government expected of him.

Contributions to the defense fund now amount to nearly 300 million rupees (\$83 million) plus more than a ton of gold worth \$1.2 million. Gold worth nearly \$4 billion at world prices, and double that at Indian prices, is estimated to be in private Indian hands. The government is disappointed with its efforts to lure more of this.

There is no disappointment in other responses. Blood donors have to be turned away; so do volunteers for the Army. Lists of both are being compiled for the future.

Army training camps are full, but as more divisions are added to the Indian Army, more youths will be called in.

Some cynics have suggested the rush to join the Army realizes an opportunity to eat better than many Indians do. But Defense Ministry officials say most volunteers come from relatively prosperous areas and few from more impoverished parts of the country.

Home guards also are being organized. The civil defense program started in fear the Chinese might bomb Indian cities. Trenches were dug and air raid sirens wailed in repetition of World War II practices of the British, who then ruled India.

Lately, however, Prime Minister Nehru has said he thinks it silly to imitate practices 20 years old. Such a word from Nehru usually brings quick results.

Nehru advocates conscription, when eventually it becomes financially possible, because he thinks it good for young men's character.

This stern approach runs through official policy in a way that worries some Indians.

The government has used emergency powers to extend its already strong control over the nation.

Government employees missing work can be imprisoned for a year. Three men who circulated criticism of Nehru's conduct of the war were jailed without specific charges.

Newspapers are under pressure to omit anything sensitive officials think might damage morale.

Underlying this is a tendency inherited from British days—for government officials to act as if they know best and for the people to acquiesce to their authority. The tendency is growing stronger during the continuing emergency caused by the Chinese threat.

## Trial Resumes

TUNIS (AP) — The treason trial of 26 persons accused in a plot to assassinate pro-Western President Habib Bourguiba resumed Saturday before a military tribunal.

The trial was postponed shortly after it opened last Monday because of new arrests in connection with the abortive plot.

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