

**July 14, 1978**

**Minutes of Meeting of CPSU CC Politburo (excerpt)**

**Citation:**

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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.