

U.S. Support Pledged in 1960

Unpublicized Agreement With Ethiopia Is Bared

By JOHN W. FINNEY

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WASHINGTON — The United States entered into an unpublicized agreement in 1960 to support a 40,000-man Ethiopian army and to oppose any threats to the territorial integrity of Ethiopia.

This was disclosed yesterday with the publication of testimony before a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee by State and Defense Department officials.

The testimony showed that since 1960, when the oral as well as written commitment was made to Ethiopia, the United States has done the following things:

—Provided more than \$147 million in military assistance to Ethiopia, including supersonic jet fighters.

—Supplied bombs and ammunition, which the Ethiopian forces have used against insurgents in Eritrea in northern Ethiopia and in the Ogaden region of the south.

—Stationed about 3,200 military personnel and dependents in Ethiopia, primarily to operate a large communications station at Kagnew, which engages in secret electronic intelligence work.

—Supplied military teams to train Ethiopians in counter-insurgency.

The testimony, heavily censored by the State Department before its publication, was taken last June by the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on United States security agreements and commitments abroad.

Stuart Symington, D-Mo., chairman of the subcommittee, thinks the testimony on Ethiopia shows how an unpublicized agreement can lead to a "deepening military involvement" on the part of the U.S. From the testimony of Dav-

id D. Newsom, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and George W. Bader, director for international security affairs, the 1960 agreement evolved in this sequence:

IN 1960 EMPEROR Haile Selassie made overtures to both the Soviet Union and the United States for arms.

The U.S., which had been giving military aid to Ethiopia since 1953, in effect outbid the Russians, as Newsom acknowl-

edged. The U.S. entered into a "commitment" to supply equipment so Ethiopia could increase its armed forces to 40,000 from around 32,000.

In the 1960 agreement, the United States "reaffirmed its continuing interest in the security of Ethiopia and its opposition to any activities threatening the territorial integrity of Ethiopia." Similar assurances were given subsequently to Haile Selassie, but at the insistence of the State Department, the form in which the assurances were given was elected from the testimony.

NEWSOM MAINTAINED that the assurances contained

"no implication . . . of any commitment to defend Ethiopia with American forces."

Sen. J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the full committee, responded that the wording of the assurances seemed to go "much further than saying a good word in the United Nations."