



Director of  
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**ETHIOPIA: Resettlement Program**

Addis Ababa intends to resettle approximately 250,000 peasants from drought-stricken northern regions by the end of December, [redacted] Eventually the government envisions moving several million people to collective farms that would be established in sparsely populated but more fertile areas of western and southwestern Ethiopia. [redacted] the program also is designed to undercut local support for guerrillas operating in the north. Addis Ababa has approached both the West and the Soviet Bloc for assistance but has received no firm commitment. [redacted]

**Comment:** Ethiopia could move several thousand people—as it did in a similar program during the late 1970s—but does not have the resources to relocate and support the numbers proposed. Most of the northern peasants are conservative and oppose government efforts to impose socialist policies on them. They will resist any resettlement effort. Attempts at even a modest relocation program will intensify antiregime sentiment and probably drive more peasants to join the Tigrean insurgents. [redacted]



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