

## **The Greatest Truth Never Told**

24.10.2014

**When oil becomes thicker than blood, the results are always wars, famine of Biblical proportions, poverty, lack of educational institutions, political and economic backwardness, low IQ and shocking level of moral illiteracy.... etc...**

The content of the letter is posted below in text format for a better reading....

# The Role of Sinclair Oil Corporation In The Ethio-Eritrean Federation

**SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION**  
630 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 27, 1945

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
GENERAL SERVICES

SEP 29 1945

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

The Honorable James F. Byrnes  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

PETROLEUM DIVISION

OCT 2 - 1945

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*file*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My Company has only recently completed an agreement with the Imperial Ethiopian Government for the development of petroleum in Ethiopia.

I feel rather certain that you, personally, have been informed with respect to this agreement. Unfortunately, the country of Ethiopia is an inland country, with no direct water outlet for export shipping. Should we be successful in discovering oil, we would, of necessity, be required to construct adequate pipe line facilities from Ethiopia to a suitable seaport, as well as an export shipping terminal. If we are to proceed with our development program in Ethiopia, it is of vital importance that Eritrea should be recognized as an integral part of Ethiopia, so we would have a suitable seaport outlet.

Our entire development program will seriously be delayed and affected should Eritrea be under the domination of any other power except Ethiopia. I, therefore, urgently request that your good offices support the demands of Ethiopia with respect to Eritrea.

For your personal information, I am attaching hereto photostatic copy of the supplemental agreement between my Company and the Imperial Ethiopian Government, with respect to construction of pipe lines to seaport outlets, from which you will readily see the importance to this project of the acquisition of Eritrea by Ethiopia.

Very truly yours

*H. H. Sinclair*  
President

DCR - ITP Unit  
 Att: [initials]  
 R- [initials]  
 Cat. B.R.T.  
 Recd

Distribution yes..... No.....  
 TO: [initials]  
 AF: J. Reimer  
 DEPARTMENT

JAN 12 1946

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**630 FIFTH AVENUE**  
**NEW YORK, N.Y.**

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Our entire development program will seriously be delayed and affected should Eritrea be under the domination of any other power except Ethiopia. I, therefore, urgently request that your good offices support the demand of Ethiopia with respect to Eritrea.

For your personal information, I am attaching hereto photostatic copy of the supplemental agreement between my company and the Imperial Ethiopian Government, with respect to construction of pipe lines in outboard outlets, from which you will readily see the importance to this project of the acquisition of Eritrea by Ethiopia.

Very truly yours

Signed:

President.

The Weather:  
For and conditions, see the  
daily weather service in  
Pittsburgh, Pa. (See page 2)  
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# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

LATE CITY EDITION  
Sinclair's Petrol: See East  
—Harold Thompson, Part 2

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 7, 1945

## Sinclair Gets All Oil Rights In Ethiopia

### Haile Selassie Makes Concession Covering 350,000 Square Miles

New York, Sept. 6.—(AP)—Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia has granted an exclusive oil concession covering his entire 350,000 square-mile empire to the Sinclair Oil Corporation, part of it under a 50-year lease, it was announced today by H. F. Sinclair, president.

In return for the right to explore for and ship petroleum out of the country, the oil company will pay royalties to the emperor in addition to building one or more schools and hospitals, clinics and research foundations. It also will pay for educating Ethiopians in the United States for the next 10 years.

#### Previous Deal Recalled

Once before, in 1935, Haile Selassie deeded more than half his empire for exploitation and development by Anglo-American oil interests. At that time he acted in the vain hope that this would halt an anticipated Italian invasion.

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The deal, engineered by British Promoter Francis M. Rickett, finally fell through after causing a world furore.

The new grant was signed in New York for Ethiopia by Ato Aklilou Abte Wold, vice minister of foreign affairs and his country's chief delegate to the San Francisco security conference.

#### Repercussions Inevitable

Under the concession, all oil development rights for the entire territory—equal in size to Texas and Oklahoma combined, with Massachusetts and Rhode Island thrown in—will rest exclusively with the Sinclair corporation for five years. Then 50 per cent of the territory will be released. After five more years another 25 per cent of the country will be released.

The contract almost certainly will have wide commercial as well as possible diplomatic repercussions in the Middle East, where British interests have been particularly strong.

In 1944 Sinclair Petroleum, an American company, signed an

agreement with Ethiopia and started petroleum exploration activities in the Ogaden. Until 1951, Sinclair Petroleum drilled 17 exploration wells in the eastern part of the Ogaden basin. The Ogaden sedimentary basin covers 350,000 sq. km. of land. Sinclair Petroleum had noted the existence of oil inflow in one of the exploration wells drilled in Gelladi locality.



After the end of World War II, the United Nations conducted a lengthy inquiry regarding the status of Eritrea, with the superpowers each vying for a stake in the state's future. Britain, the last administrator at the time, put forth the suggestion to partition Eritrea between Sudan and Ethiopia, separating Christians and Muslims. The idea was instantly rejected by the Eritrean people— both Christians and Muslims— who wanted total independence and keep their territorial sovereignty intact. The United States point of view was expressed by its then chief foreign policy advisor John Foster Dulles who said:

**".... From the point of view of justice, the opinions of the Eritrean people must receive consideration. Nevertheless, the strategic interests of the United States in the Red Sea Basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that the country [Eritrea] be linked with our ally, Ethiopia." —John Foster Dulles, 1952**

A UN plebiscite voted 46 to 10 to have Eritrea be federated with Ethiopia which was later stipulated on December 2, 1950 in resolution 390 (V). Eritrea would have its own parliament and administration and would be represented in what had been the Ethiopian parliament and would become the federal parliament. In 1961 the 30-year Eritrean Struggle for Independence began, following the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie's dissolution of the federation and shutting down of Eritrea's parliament. The Emperor declared Eritrea the fourteenth province of Ethiopia in 1962.....