

Annex I

Eritrea/Ethiopia Boundary Commission

Fourth report on the work of the Commission

1. This is the fourth report of the Eritrea/Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 1 December 2001 to 28 February 2002.
2. The period covered by this report is marked by two major advances in the work of the Commission.
3. First, the Commission held hearings at The Hague from 10 to 21 December 2001. Each party presented three rounds of argument and responded to questions put by the Commission.
4. Second, the Commission has, since the hearings, been actively engaged in deliberations and in the drafting of the decision on delimitation. There have also been extensive discussions between the Commissioners by correspondence. Although the Commission had originally anticipated rendering its decision by the end of February, the logistical aspects of completing such a decision, including the preparation of accompanying maps and figures, have led the Commission to revise its earlier estimate, and the decision is now expected to be rendered in the first half of April 2002.
5. Preliminary consideration is already being given to the demarcation stage of the Commission's work. As stated in the Commission's previous report, demarcation cannot begin until the prospective locations of boundary markers have been cleared of landmines. Such clearance cannot itself begin until the line of the boundary as delimited by the Commission is communicated to the parties. Thereafter, arrangements for mine clearance will be actively resumed.
6. Arrangements for the preparation of the 1:25,000 map on which the final demarcation will be marked, and which will thenceforth be the definitive boundary map, are in hand. Permission has been sought from the parties and from the neighbouring States of Djibouti and the Sudan for the overflights in the border region necessary to prepare the map, to be carried out after the delimitation decision. Both parties have already replied affirmatively.
7. The Commission expresses the hope that the Security Council, in its next resolution relating to the operation of UNMEE, will be able to extend the scope of the Mission's mandate expressly to enable it to assist the Commission in the demarcation stage of its activity and, in that connection, to accelerate the process of mine clearance.

(Signed) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Commission
4 March 2002