

Annex I

Tenth report on the work of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission

1. This is the tenth report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 10 June to 29 August 2003.
2. Following the issuance of its ninth report as an annex to the progress report of the Secretary General on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2003/665), the Commission issued a schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003, which was published as an addendum to that report (S/2003/665/Add.1).
3. To the extent possible, demarcation activities are continuing in accordance with that schedule. Following the receipt, on 11 June 2003, of the parties' comments on the Commission's pillar site assessment survey for the Eastern Sector, the Commission instructed the demarcation team to undertake certain additional field work in that sector. The Secretary then prepared marked maps showing, with respect to that sector, the line prescribed in the delimitation decision and the proposed sites of the boundary pillars. These maps were sent to the parties on 21 August 2003. As provided in the Commission's demarcation directions, the parties have 15 days to comment on these maps.
4. Early in July, the United Nations Headquarters Committee on Contracts approved the selection of contractors for boundary pillar emplacement and the as-built survey of boundary pillars for the entire boundary. Upon signature of the contracts, which are currently being negotiated, deployment of staff and shipment of equipment by contractors to the Eastern Sector can begin; actual pillar emplacement is scheduled to commence shortly thereafter.
5. Preparations for pillar emplacement continue in the remaining two sectors. In August, the Commission held internal meetings to resolve certain technical issues relating to the demarcation in those sectors. After considering the parties' comments of 24 January, 15 April and 2 May 2003, the Commission issued instructions to the demarcation team for implementing the plan of work set out in the schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003, including preparation of the factual survey of Tserona and Zalambessa and field assessment of pillar sites in the Central and Western Sectors. Those instructions were communicated to the parties on 22 August.
6. On 17 June 2003, both parties submitted their comments on the Special Consultant's report of 2 June 2003 pursuant to paragraph 15 B of the demarcation directions, dealing with a dispute that had arisen between the parties with respect to their field liaison officers. The Commission's decision on this dispute was communicated to the parties on 7 July, and issued as Security Council document S/2003/752 on 18 July 2003. The decision calls upon the parties to appoint new field liaison officers, and amends the demarcation directions to provide for an exchange of background information concerning field liaison officers. In response, Eritrea notified the Commission on 26 August 2003 of the appointment of its field liaison officers.

7. Late in July, Eritrea approved the establishment of contractors' accommodation and meal facilities at Barentu. Preparations are continuing for the establishment of similar facilities in Adigrat and Assab.

8. Ensuring the security of field office staff and contractors' personnel is essential to the demarcation process. In the light of the imminent deployment of contractors' personnel to the Eastern Sector and the ongoing demarcation activities contemplated by the current schedule in the Western and Central Sectors, the Commission has reminded the parties of their complete and sole responsibility, within the areas under their control, for ensuring the safety of all demarcation personnel. The Commission has specifically requested the Parties to develop — in consultation with the Chief Surveyor — detailed procedures for ensuring the security of all demarcation personnel, including arrangements for communication at all necessary levels (central and local government, interministerial, and local population), and for facilitating the role of UNMEE, as affirmed inter alia by the Security Council in resolution 1466 (2003) of 14 March 2003, in monitoring those activities.

9. In conformity with its mandate, the Commission continues to work to arrange for expeditious demarcation of the boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Despite the Commission's efforts, however, compliance with the timeline set out in the schedule of the order of activities ahead as at 16 July 2003 essentially depends on the unreserved cooperation of the two Governments, including the granting of prompt approvals for flights and site inspections.

(Signed) Sir Elihu **Lauterpacht**
President of the Commission

29 August 2003