

Annex I**Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission: fifteenth report on the work of the Commission**

1. This is the fifteenth report of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, covering the period from 20 August to 1 December 2004.

2. As indicated in its fourteenth report, the Commission has, regrettably, and for reasons beyond its control, been unable to make progress with its demarcation activities during the period covered by this report.

3. However, the Commission received on 7 December a letter from the Legal Counsel to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, dated 6 December, in which he stated that, at the instruction of the Government of Ethiopia, he was writing “to convey to the Commission information on the Government’s most recent initiative for resolving the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea”. The letter continued:

“On November 25, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, His Excellency Meles Zenawi, gave a major address to the House of Peoples’ Representatives (Federal Parliament) regarding the peace process and, after discussion, the House adopted the five-point peace proposal presented by the Prime Minister.

“The Government of Ethiopia has asked that I inform the Commission that on the basis of paragraph (4) of the five-point peace proposal its outstanding dues will be paid immediately. In addition, Ethiopia’s liaison officers will be appointed promptly from a list of candidates now being considered. Their names and information regarding their background will be transmitted to the Commission as specified in the Commission’s order of 7 July 2003.”

4. The decision of the House of Peoples’ Representatives on the five point proposal for resolving the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea has been submitted to the Secretariat.

5. The Commission has not as yet received notice that either of the steps announced has been completed. When this has happened, the Commission will promptly consider how best to resume the demarcation process.

6. As noted in its earlier reports, the Commission, in keeping with its commitment to continue its work in the manner foreseen in the Algiers Agreement, has maintained its presence in the area, but has reduced its activity to the minimum compatible with its being able to resume it as soon as it becomes possible for it to do so. The Commission has maintained its field offices in both capitals, but with reduced staff. It had, even before the receipt of the latest communication from the Government of Ethiopia, extended until the end of January 2005 the period the field offices are being kept open. This period will, of course, be extended as the needs of the situation may require.

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

8 December 2004