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Date	26-5-88
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Subject:

REC'D 25.05.88 11.09 93C88 TIU255
 BMGOLD
 .A1234 MMU316
 MHU316
 ON AUTOMATIC REROUTE

Hvis uleselig
 ring til meg
 Emnetu

MILITARY COMMUNIQUE

EPLF FORCES CHECK A VAST ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

EPLF FORCES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED AN EXTENSIVE AND MULTI-PRONGED ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IN A SERIES OF PITCHED BATTLES THAT RAGED FROM MAY 13-23. ETHIOPIAN AGGREGATE LOSSES EXCEED 9000 SOLDIERS BETWEEN THE KILLED, WOUNDED AND CAPTURED WHILE 33 TANKS AND 28 MILITARY VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED.

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THE ETHIOPIAN CONCERTED ATTACKS THAT WERE UNLEASHED TWO DAYS AFTER A PRE-EMPTIVE EPLF ATTACK AROUND KEREN IN WHICH OVER 4000 ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE WIPED-OUT, INVOLVED A TOTAL OF 12 DIVISIONS THAT SET OUT IN THREE PRINCIPAL DIRECTIONS. THE FIRST ENEMY CONTINGENT COMPOSED OF SEVEN DIVISIONS AND COMPLEMENTARY BRIGADES ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THROUGH THE NORTHERN PERIPHERIES OF KEREN, THE SECOND THREE-DIVISION STRONG ENEMY FORCE PROCEEDED FROM MASSAWA ALONG THE EASTERN PLAINS TOWARDS FELKET AND AZAHRA (AROUND 30 KMS EAST OF AFABET), WHILE THE THIRD TWO-DIVISION CONTINGENT SET OUT ALONG THE MENSAE MOUNTAINS.

THE ETHIOPIAN CONTINGENT THAT APPROACHED THE STRATEGIC PASSES OF FELKET AND AZAHRA WAS IN ADDITION REINFORCED BY AN ELITE PARATROOP AND COMMANDO DIVISION, 3RD THE WPE ARMY, AND CONSTITUTED THE MAIN TASK FORCE ON WHICH THE REGIME PINNED ITS HOPES. BUT IN THE PITCHED TANK BATTLES THAT RAGED, THE BULK OF THIS FORCE WAS ANNIHILATED WHILE 21 OF THE ESTIMATED 65 ENEMY TANKS WERE DESTROYED.

THE PARATROOP AND COMMANDO DETACHMENT WAS FULLY ENCRICLED BY OUR FORCES AND ENTIRELY ANNIHILATED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A HANDFUL SURVIVORS WHO MANAGED (MANAGED) TO ESCAPE. THE COMMANDER OF ETHIOPIA'S PARATROOP AND COMMANDO FORCES, BRIGADIER GENERAL TEMESGEN GEMECHU WAS ALSO KILLED IN THIS BATTLE.

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THE OTHER CONTINGENTS WERE SIMILARLY REPULSED AFTER SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES.

ERITREAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT
 EUROPE OFFICE
 MAY 25
 TERMINATED