

Att.: Emmetu Tesfay

NEWIH

CFR. MIDNIGHT TALK WITH THREE NORWEGIAN WOMEN DEC. 20, 1987.
BOOK NOW BEING WRITTEN WITH FOCUS ON WOMEN, BUT WITH INTRODUCTION
ON POLITICAL HISTORY.
YOUR ANSWER TO FOLLOWING QUESTION IS MEANT TO BE THE FINAL SEQUENCE
IN A CHAPTER ON CHALLENGES OF NATION-BUILDING IN A MULTI-CULTURAL
SOCIETY WITH HISTORY OF CIVIL WAR, STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL WHEN VICTORY
SEEMED CLOSE, ETHIOPIAN ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE THE PEOPLE ETC.

QUESTION 1)

ARE YOU TODAY A STRONG ENOUGH NATION WITHIN THE ERITREAN STATE - STRONG
ENOUGH TO WIN THE PEACE NOW IF IT CAME TOMORROW?
(The book format would ask for a maximum 10 - 15 line answer).

QUESTION 2)(not connected to the former)

THE NUMBER 30 000 IS NOW BEING ESTABLISHED IN WESTERN PRESS AS THE
AMOUNT OF EPLF FIGHTERS INSIDE ERITREA. HOW DO YOU REACT ON THAT
GAINING STATUS AS A "FACT"?

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,
INGEBORG ELIASSEN

JOB: EMNETU
SID: 99
BESKJ:
STIKKORD:

KAT-GRU: INGEL-USR
PR:

AV: INGEL ;29/02
DAT: 181818

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Oslo, February 29, 1988+

9 +
10 +
11 +
12 Emnetu Tesfay ,+
13 +

14 Here are the two questions - the first one more important than
15 the second - that I would appreciate very much if you could have
16 posed to Esayas Afeworki.+

17 I will call you tomorrow or the day after to make sure you find
18 them clear enough. If they are, I would be glad to have them
19 transmitted as soon as possible, as my deadline is approaching
20 fast.+

21 +
22 My telephone number at work, where I spend most of my time now,
23 is 02/26 40 00. At night, I return home and can be reached at
24 02/80 24 72.+

25 +
26 Thank you in advance.+

27 *Ingeborg Eliassen*
28

◀(SLUTT)▶

Questions to the Secretary-General

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INGEBORG ELIASSEN

Answers from the Secretary-General

translated

ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 1:

In the aftermath of the Second World War Eritrea was among those countries who had mature and progressive political activities in Africa. Although Eritrea was "Federated" with Haile Selassie's regime against its wish; the Eritrean people, as much as the Somalis and Libyans (the other ex-Italian colonies) had the capacity and legitimacy to self-rule and independence. Against all odds, now, in the course of 40 years struggle, the Eritrean people have managed to establish an efficient and democratic administrative structure in the liberated areas. The basis for a new and democratic Eritrea is laid down. This positive achievement is attributed to Eritrea's unique historical process, a phenomenon uncommon to other nations.

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 2:

By tradition, the E.P.L.F. does not disclose the size of the Eritrean People's Liberation Army (EPLA). The media continues to belittle our capacity and exaggerate the Dergue's, thus portraying a wrong image to the international community. Yes, our respective military capacities will continue to be a mystery to the outside world for a long time to come. But it is not so to the protagonists.