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DEAR SIR:

May 31, 1990

The Research and Information Centre of Eritrea, a semi-autonomous organisation established to coordinate research on Eritrea, requests financial assistance for a one day conference on "A Century of Oppression and Struggle for Peace in Eritrea" to be held on 23 November, 1990, in London. The objectives and the structure of the conference will be as described in detail in the enclosed leaflet.

The background of the on going war between Eritrea and Ethiopia is the least known of the conflicts in Africa despite the fact that it is the longest and one of the bloodiest in the world. The main purpose of the conference is, therefore, to promote understanding of the issues at the heart of the conflict. In addition, 1990 marks a century since the Italians carved Eritrea from the Horn of Africa and it will be a fitting occasion to discuss the historical contexts which shaped its destiny.

In the middle of last year, a glimpse of hope emerged in that, for the first time in the history of the conflict, the Ethiopian government expressed its willingness to meet and discuss peace with the EPLF in the presence of a third party. That resulted in the discussions that took place in Atlanta and then in Nairobi between the Ethiopian Government and the EPLF under the chairmanship of former US president Mr Jimmy Carter. In the wake of these hopeful signs, the conference will discuss the social and economic challenges that Eritrea will face when the war ends.

We believe this is a timely conference which will greatly contribute to furthering understanding both of the root causes of the conflict and of the daunting task of post- conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction problems.

We have detailed the budget requirement for the conference on the attached page and we very much hope that your support will enable us to carry it out as planned.

Yours Sincerely,

Emnetu Tesfay *E. Tesfay*

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