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The Embassy of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia presents
its compliments to all Diplomatic and Consular Missions and International
Organizations in Harare and has the honour to enclose herewith the
full-text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of .
the Transitional Government of Ethiopia released on 22 December 1993 in
connection with the so-called peace and reconciliation conference which
was held in Addis Ababa from December 19-22/1993.
The Embassy of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia avails
itself of this Opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Zimbabwe the assurances of its highest- considerati n.
December 24, 1993
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Government of Ethiopia has deemed it useful to issue this statement in connection with the so-called Conference on "peace and reconciliation" which was opened in Addie Ababa on 18 December 1993, and most particularly with respect to those seven individuals arrested upon arrival in Addis Ababa.

At the outset, it should be clear that the Transitional government has been absolutely above reproach with regard to the way it has facilitated the holding of the conference and has been impeccable in its observance of the human and democratic rights of those who wanted to organize and participate in the conference. By any standard, the behavior demonstrated by the Transitional Government towards this whole event is a (near reflection of the radically changed situation in Ethiopia and of the commitment of the

Transitional Government to the principles and horns of

democracy. i

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional

It does not need reiteration that even though the Government knew in advance that the conference was not designed by its organizers to be constructive and that it was absolutely convinced that the terms "peace" and "reconciliation" were nienomera, it nonetheless allowed, not only for the conference to be convened but also made a Government-owned hotel available for the organizers of the conference on rent. All this despite the fact that the chairman of the coeordinating committee of the conference - not to be confused with its sub-committee in Ethiopia - was an architect of and was a major actor in the Red Terror visited on the Ethiopian people.

As the President of the Transitional Government has made it clear, useful or unuseful, futile or beneficial, peaceable assemblies by citizens in the exercise of their democratic rights would not be infringed upon by the Transitional Government. In fact, these would be encouraged, as was made abundantly clear by the behavior of the Government with respect to this latest conference.

But, at the same time, like all Governments the world over, the Transitional Government has the responsibility to ensure that law and order is maintained in the country and that those who are found to be engaging in' unlawful and criminal activities are apprehended and are brought before the court of law.

It is to be noted that the Government has made no attempt to cajole or coax the individuals into coming to Addie Ababa. In fact, it was made clear in no ambiguous terms, On the other hand, it would have beenhinnnanihlewioni". the Government, in view of its commitment to the observance of the human rights of citizens to enter and leave their country freely, to have denied the same individuals entry_pe;nite to come to their country. . . -

who were brought before court of law within the legally allowed 48-hour period, belong to the All Ethiopian socialist Hovement (AESH), The Ethiopian Peoplee' Revolutionary Party (BPRP), the Hedhin and the Oromo Liberation Front (OLP). The ABSM or Meagan as it is usually called , is that.m political organization which worked hand in gloves with the Dergue in the red terror campaign and continued until the late Government.

The Hedhin party of Colonel Goshu Wolde,_true to the military background of its leader who was one of the key figures in the Dergue regime, sees no option in Ethiopia other H than the military one, and has accordingly been calling the Ethiopian people to arms, the latest such declaration having been issued only a few 'weeks before the opening of the conference.

The OLP's commitment to violence has continued since it has left the Transitional Government and it is yet to renounce this method of struggle. The series of battle field victories, authentic or not, it has been declaring up until the eve of the opening of the conference, make it abundantly clear that the OLF continues to believe that the violent overthrow of the Government is its major goal.

Accordingly, the seven individuals under custody are people who are suspected of hav lng committed crimes either as a result of their participation in the Red Terror, or because e duty and the responsibility of the Government to ensure that individuals who are party to violence and who are involved in a conspiracy to violence are apprehended and brought before court of law. -

In this connection,. the measures _tnken .by .the Transitional Government with respect to the detainees have been fully consistent with what 18 required bymthe law and.. with international standards. The individuals were within 48 . hours of their arrest brought before court and tho Government ., was given a two week period by the court to prepare its case.-. against the detainees. As such, they_will again-appbar before court in two weeks time. .te 7 .:L -.. - --.

In the meantime, the seven attested Indiylhualedhaye been allowed visits by family members and they hevejeven.been. allowed to have access to the press._ Thus,,theyghave.been treated, and will continue to be treated, in a humene mannerh who renounce violence and is resolved to ensure that those who do so, participate in a meaningful way in the Ir neitional process. It welcomes dialogue with and within the O position. Government to facilitate the convehlng of. the lateet". conference in Addie Ababa should be undetstood.u continue to be respected by the Transitional Government. At the same tlme, the Government will continue to ensure that no one 13 above the law and that extra- legal activities have no place in the country.

. 22 December, 1993 Ministry of Foreign Affairsnothum the Transltionel_Government of Ethiopia 2 MM J. A.N.C. OFFICE(HARAFE)
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