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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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- 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

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.

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 OLP 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 having committed crimes either as a result of their participation in the Red Terror, or because of 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 taken by the Transitional Government with respect to the detainees have been fully consistent with what is required by the law and with international standards. The individuals were within 48 hours of their arrest brought before court and the Government was given a two week period by the court to prepare its case against the detainees. As such, they will again appear before court in two weeks time. te 7  
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In the meantime, the seven attested individuals have been allowed visits by family members and they have even been allowed to have access to the press. Thus, they have been treated, and will continue to be treated, in a humane manner who renounce violence and is resolved to ensure that those who do so, participate in a meaningful way in the Transitional process. It welcomes dialogue with and within the Opposition. Government to facilitate the convening of the lateet". conference in Addis Ababa should be understood to continue to be respected by the Transitional Government. At the same time, the Government will continue to ensure that no one is above the law and that extra-legal activities have no place in the country.

. 22 December, 1993

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
the Transitional Government  
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