

MR. SPEAKER, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM AFRICA, I WISH TO REPORT TO THE HOUSE ON MY ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AND RECENT HUMANITARIAN AND DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WHICH CANADA HAS TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE CRISIS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE AWARE THAT SOME FOUR TO FIVE MILLION PEOPLE IN THE NORTHERN ETHIOPIAN REGIONS OF ERITREA, TIGRAY AND WOLLO ARE NOW SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY STARVATION.

I WISH I COULD PROVIDE THE HOUSE ASSURANCE THAT SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE COULD BE AVOIDED - BUT I FEAR THAT IS NOT THE CASE. THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE DROUGHT WAS SERIOUS - BUT IT WAS MANAGEABLE.

WHEN AUGMENTED BY THE ONGOING MILITARY STRUGGLE IN THE REGION, THE SITUATION HAS RAPIDLY DETERIORATED AND IS NO LONGER MANAGEABLE.