

NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY REFORMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN ETHIOPIA.

OBVIOUSLY, PRESIDENT MENGISTU AND HIS CABINET ARE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND WORKING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF NATIONAL CRISIS; BUT IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE VIEWS OF A COUNTRY WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY COME TO THE AID OF ETHIOPIANS.

DURING THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, I EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO OPEN A SOUTHERN SUPPLY LINE INTO TIGRAY AND TO USE ALL OTHER AVAILABLE RELIEF ROUTES INTO THE NORTH, INCLUDING THE PORT OF MASSAWA.

I ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGED PRESIDENT MENGISTU TO RELAUNCH THE PEACE PROCESSES INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA AND REBEL GROUPS.

I REFER TO THE PROCESS UNDER THE COCHAIRMANSHIP OF FORMER PRESIDENTS JIMMY CARTER AND JULIUS NYERERE INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA AND THE EPLF, AND THE PROCESS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA AND THE TPLF.

ON MARCH 20, THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT FOR A MAJOR RELIEF OPERATION WHICH HAS STARTED FROM THE SOUTH, WILL