

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO THE PARIS MEETING

March, 11, 12 and 12, 1993.

The Paris Meeting is organised as a step towards dialogue to promote national reconciliation in Ethiopia. The invitation list takes into account the ethnic composition of the country and is carefully drawn so as to make sure that all the major trends - from the government to armed opposition movements - are represented.

1. Organization leading the Transitional Government of Ethiopia :

ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONNARY DEMOCRATIC FRONT (EPRDF). The Front is composed of 4 organisations with the TIGRAI PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (TPLF) created in 1975 playing the dominant role. The ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (EPDM) created in 1980 is the second most important group within EPRDF. It waged armed struggle against Mengistu's government in cooperation with TPLF and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF). The other two are the OROMO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION (OPDO) and the ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS REVOLUTIONNARY ORGANISATION (EDORO) both created by TPLF in the late 80s. EPRDF holds 32 of the 87 seats in the Council of representatives.

II. Independent organisations participating in the transition process :

1. PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC COALITION SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA (UPSE). This is a coalition of 14 ethnic organisations from southern Ethiopia. 10 of these are represented in the Council of representatives where they hold 19 seats. While accepting the Transition Charter, the coalition maintains its independence vis-à-vis EPRDF and sometimes opposes the latter as was the case in June 1992 when it contested the way regional elections were organised by the government.

2. AFAR LIBERATION FRONT (ALF). Led by the traditional Afar leader, Sultan Ali Mirah, ALF is one of the oldest political organisations in Ethiopia. It waged armed struggle against Mengistu's government while at the same time opposing separatist aims of the Eritrean fronts. ALF supports a federal solution to the Eritrean problem in order to maintain the unity of the Afar people who will otherwise be divided between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Front has 3 seats in the Council of representatives.

III. - Political opposition organisations :

1. COALITION OF ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES (COEDF). It is a coalition of 4 multiethnic political parties, more than 30 associations and several prominent individuals. The political parties in the coalition are : ALL ETHIOPIA SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (Me'isone) created in 1968, the ETHIOPIAN PEOPLES REVOLUTIONNARY PARTI (EPRP) created in 1972, the ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU) created in 1975 and the HIBRE HIZBE Party created in 1992.

COEDF stands for pluralism and the unity of Ethiopia based on equality and within the framework of a federation. The organisation is banned in the country.

2. ALL AMHARA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (AAPO). The organisation stands for the interests of the Amhara ethnic group within the larger framework of a united Ethiopia. Although it is legally registered as a party it does not participate in any of the institutions of transition. AAPO opposes EPRDF's ethnic politics and Eritrea's secession.

3. THE ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC MEDHIN PARTY (MEDHIN). Created in the United States in march 1992, MEDHIN is a multiethnic organisation composed of intellectuals and personalities in exile. It stands for pluralism and for the unity of Ethiopia based on equality of ethnic groups.

4. MULTINATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY OF ETHIOPIA (MCPE) created in 1991 by former founding members and leaders of TIGRAI PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (TPLF) who left this Front in 1986/87. MCPE struggles for pluralism and a united multiethnic Ethiopia.

IV. Armed opposition movements :

1. OROMO LIBERATION FRONT (OLF). Created in 1976, OLF struggles for the respect of the right of the Oromo people to self determination. After having waged armed struggle against Mengistu's regime, the Front participated at the London conference in may 1991. It had 12 seats in the Council of representatives and participated in the government until it broke with EPRDF in june 1992. The organisation now wages armed struggle.

2. AFAR REVOLUTIONNARY DEMOCRATIC UNION (ARDU). Together with most Afar organisations ARDU opposes the "Kurdification" of the Afar people. Defending a position of Afar unity which is threatened by Eritrean separatism, the organisation has launched armed struggle against the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and EPRDF.