



Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement
fondation pour le progrès de l'homme

Paris, January 28th 1993

H.E. Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General OUA
P.O. BOX 3243
ADDIS ABEBA, ETHIOPIA

REF. : 31.65/93/ML/NG

Your Excellency,

Despite the fall of the Menghistu regime in 1991, Ethiopia has never been more on the verge of a new cycle of violence.

In a country which has hardly known a decade of total peace in the last 250 years, proclaiming the end of the war is not enough to start off on the path to durable peace. Determination, as strong as the violence it is to counteract, must mobilize all political, cultural, intellectual and religious forces around a veritable program for constructing peace.

To encourage a joint effort on all aspects of this process of transition from war to peace, the CCFD (Catholic Committee Against Hunger and for the Development) and the FPH (Foundation for the Progress of Mankind) organized a five-day seminar in July 1991 with GRAPECA (Research and Action Group for Peace in Ethiopia and in the Horn of Africa). The seminar was open to all trends in Ethiopia and reviewed experience of seventeen countries on five continents.

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The dialogue which was initiated on this occasion and the repercussions it had both in Ethiopia and abroad, helped identify the elements of a construction process for peace and national reconciliation including notably rehabilitating veterans and victims of war, creating a constitutional framework for multi-ethnic society, reconstructing the rural economy, seeking symbols of national cohesion, reorganizing the administration, etc...

Two additional initiatives are now needed to move another step forward :

- organizing a preparatory meeting where representatives of the Ethiopian government and the country's major political forces will discuss ways and means of conveying a conference of reconciliation open to all active forces in the country ;
- supporting public awareness campaign on issues related to peace by setting up "circles for democracy and national reconciliation" in Ethiopia and within the Ethiopian community outside of the country, based on the proposals drafted by the conference of reconciliation.

We are convinced that this process would make an effective contribution to re-establishing peace in the Horn of Africa, but that it must have the firm support of the largest possible number of institutions, governments and non-governmental organizations if it is to get underway. For this reason we ask you to support this action with all of the weight of your authority by addressing a letter of support to all the participants of the encounter scheduled for March 11th, 12th and 13th in Paris.

Yours sincerely,



Claude BAERHEL
General Secretary CCFD



Pierre CALAME
President FPH

Enclosures :
Background
List of organizations invited to the Paris meeting

Please send your reply to :
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