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**The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Tourism Commission**



ቁጥር IG/119/17-0

Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
16 March 1999

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445-12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Subregional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 [IBFS File No. SAT-LOA--19900723-00002]; Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)

Dear Ms. Salas:

In my capacity as Commissioner of Tourism, I wish to express my wholehearted endorsement of AfriSpace's proposal to establish a satellite communication system in Africa and the Middle East.

As you know, Ethiopia is the cradle of one of the ancient civilizations. Its rich historical legacy includes unique pre-Christian monuments as well as renowned churches and monasteries from the dawn of Christianity. There are also mosques and artifacts of the Muslim faith. Ethiopia is, moreover, a cradle of humanity: its extensive archaeological sites attract students of pre-history from everywhere. Finally, Ethiopia's environmental heritage includes marvels such as the source of the Nile and mountains whose stature and beauty has drawn travelers since the Middle Ages.

YUSUF ABDULLAHI SUKKAR  
COMMISSIONER

MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_



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Despite these riches, a prolonged civil war during the period of military rule cut off Ethiopia from the outside world. In the same period, our cultural and environmental heritage suffered severe neglect. Since 1991, the Ethiopian Tourism Commission has undertaken to preserve the country's natural and cultural legacy. In tandem with this effort, we are also attempting to attract travelers from everywhere to appreciate the treasures that Ethiopia offers. Our twin task of preservation and cultivation of international attention would be immensely advanced by access to modern communication technology. Wider knowledge of Ethiopia's heritage would be a gain to Ethiopia and mankind.

AfriSpace's technology would be a great step forward in our effort to demonstrate that Ethiopia and Africa as a whole cannot be overlooked as one more arena of war and famine. It is high time to recognize that Ethiopia is an invaluable site of humanity and rare human achievements.

Please accept my firm support for approval of AfriSpace's proposal.

Sincerely Yours,



**YUSUF ABDULLAHI SUKKAR**  
**COMMISSIONER**

