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Addis Ababa

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FAX } 55 15 88

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Ref No.
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Date

26 March 1999

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:

Since 1991 Ethiopia has undertaken a step unprecedented in the country's long history: to initiate the establishment of a constitutional democracy. Cultivation of a democratic culture calls for citizens and communities competent both to understand debates in public policy and to appraise government's ability to formulate and implement effective policies. In a largely rural society with limited literacy, TV and especially radio are favored agents of public information. Ethiopia's embrace of federalism, entitling regional governments to use local languages in education and public service, further increases the burden TV and radio must bear in ensuring citizen access to information.

In the light of Ethiopia's changing political landscape and the resultant growth in the demand for public information, access to modern communication technologies is indispensable.

I am acquainted with AfriSpace technology and its rich potential. AfriSpace's proposed satellite broadcasting system, no doubt the first in Africa, will greatly advance the scope and quality of public information that can reach rural and culturally pluralist communities.

I therefore urge approval of AfriSpace's application.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Salome Tadesse".

Salome Tadesse
General Manager
Ethiopian Radio and Television