

11<sup>th</sup> March 1999

Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Amendment of AfriSpace Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch, and Operate a Sub-regional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File no. CSS-90-017**

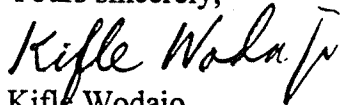
Dear Ms. Salas,

It is not news that our sub-region and the continent as a whole is plagued by domestic and interstate conflict. In order to avert and contain conflict, institutions and citizens must be alert to telling signs of conflict well before its outbreak. They need to monitor tendencies to escalation and spread after the onset of conflict. All this requires making public what the protagonists often seek to hide or disguise. Moreover, to secure the consent of the parties in the conflict to mediation and negotiation public pressure is essential. Effective moral and political pressure on the protagonists, necessary to secure standing by peacemakers, is possible only through a mobilised public which is conscious of conflict and its consequences, as well as committed to avoid it.

An information system with wide reach, such as that proposed by AfriSpace, would provide a much-needed weapon in the fight for peace in Africa. We therefore wish to express our firm support for the AfriSpace proposal to provide radio programming to Africa, delivered by satellite. Millions engulfed in conflict would thereby gain access to information regarding interventions on behalf of peace, as well as information on humanitarian assistance.

We therefore strongly recommend that the Federal Communications Commission extend its approval to the AfriSpace application. Approval would serve the cause of peace in Africa.

Yours sincerely,



Kifle Wodajo  
Former Chair Constitutional Commission of Ethiopia  
Director, Horn of Africa Peace Centre