

THE AFRICA-AMERICA INSTITUTE

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April 7, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445-12th Street, S.W. - Room TWD204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch, and Prepare a Sub-regional 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. Sales:

The Africa-America Institute (AAI) recognizes the valuable role that modern telecommunications technology can play in empowering Africans to address their most pressing political, social and economic needs. An inadequate communications infrastructure is one of the biggest hurdles facing the region's development and AAI welcomes the efforts of AfriSpace, Inc. to increase Africa's telecommunications capacity and the region's access to critical sources of information, education and news.

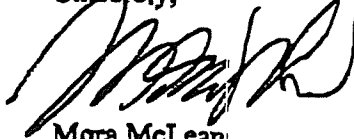
AAI is a non-profit, multi-racial, multi-ethnic organization whose mission is to promote African development, primarily through education and training. We are dedicated to sustaining that development by promoting mutually beneficial relations between a wide spectrum of Africans and Americans in the public and private sectors. AAI's Trade, Investment and Economic Development (TIED) program is working to strengthen the capacity of Africans to compete in the global economy and to help Africans and Americans to address and overcome existing barriers to trade and investment in the region.

An efficient telecommunications infrastructure is a prerequisite for increased trade and investment flows. In the fall of 1997, AAI hosted a roundtable, *Connecting Worlds: Africa and the United States in the Information Age*, which assessed the importance of the information technology and telecommunications sectors to Africa's development and especially to its development in the areas of human resources, media, governance and policy, and trade and investment.

Building on the objectives of the *Connecting Worlds* initiative, AAI supports programs that seek to develop the continent's telecommunications infrastructure, increase information flows in the region and enhance the capacity of Africans to compete in the global economy. Satellite technology can fill the information gap that impedes the extension of communications services to remote and rural areas and open new markets for opportunity.

For the above reasons, we support approval of the Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mora McLean', written over a horizontal line.

Mora McLean
President

BCC: Gracia Hillman, President
WorldSpace Foundation