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BANK OF ABYSSINIA

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26 March 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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,

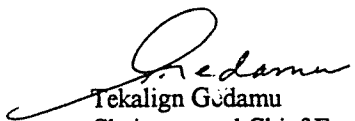
In my capacity as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Abyssinia, I am writing in support of AfriSpace's proposal to institute a satellite broadcast system for Africa and the Middle East.

Following nearly two decades of a command economy under the former regime, Ethiopia has recently introduced a market-oriented management of its economy. Among the steps taken in this direction is the encouragement of private banking. My own bank is among the pioneers in this exciting and challenging venture. As is well known, modern banking services rely upon effective global communication technologies. The scope and effectiveness of our services depend on speedy and reliable access to our clients. To realize the rich potential of private banking in Ethiopia, our bank needs to make itself known to households throughout the vast stretch of rural Ethiopia and to clients in neighboring countries in the sub-region.

In these and related ways the modern communications system proposed by AfriSpace would be a most valuable aid to the private banking sector emerging in Ethiopia.

I therefore urge approval of AfriSpace's timely proposal.

Sincerely Yours,


Tekalign Godamu

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Bank of Abyssinia

