Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/264
11 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Sudan
(S/1996/255) dated 8 April 1996 and its annex, and upon instruction of my
Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a note dated
3 April 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the
Sudan in response to the baseless accusations by the Government of the Sudan
that Ethiopian armed forces have launched attacks on Sudanese territories.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mulugeta ETEFFA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

<u>Annex</u>

<u>Note dated 3 April 1996 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia addressed to the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan</u>

    The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of the Sudan and has the honour to refer to the latter's note dated
28 March 1996 regarding allegations by the Government of the Sudan that
Ethiopian armed forces have launched repeated attacks on its territories and are
occupying several places inside the territory of the Sudan. The Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, in its press release issued on 26 March 1996, has refuted the
latest fabrications by the Government of the Sudan that Ethiopian troops were
instrumental in the capture of the towns of Yaboos and Fashalla. However, to
put the records straight, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to state the following.

    The Ministry notes that this is not the first time that the Sudanese
Government has levelled accusations against Ethiopia, blaming it for invading
this or that part of Sudanese territory, accusations that are usually made by
design to coincide with debates in the Security Council on Sudanese involvement
in the assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. This
latest accusation by the Sudan is in no way different from previous accusations
and it is also like the previous ones, no doubt, calculated to impress members
of the Security Council with a view to diverting their attention from taking the
next step in the light of the Sudan's failure to implement Security Council
resolution 1044 (1996).

    It is the conviction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the only major
issue between the Sudan and Ethiopia is the request by the Security Council and
the Organization of African Unity calling upon the Government of the Sudan to
hand over the three terrorists to Ethiopia for prosecution. In this context the
attempt by the Sudan to continue provoking Ethiopia by fabricating stories of
Ethiopian aggression would serve no purpose other than complicating further the
already complicated situation arising from the Sudanese involvement in State-
sponsored terrorism.

    It is therefore vital that the Sudan desist from this type of provocative
and diversionary activity in the future and instead take the necessary measures
to comply with the decisions of the Security Council and the international
community. The attempt to hide behind the Organization of African Unity or
behind fabricated stories would not help the Sudan to ignore, with impunity, the
demands of the Security Council and the Organization of African Unity.

    Good neighbourliness based on respect for the unity and territorial
integrity of States is one of the cardinal principles that the Government of
Ethiopia pursues <u>vis-à-vis</u> all its neighbouring countries. Ethiopia expects
that these lofty principles are reciprocated by its neighbouring countries,
including the Sudan.