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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the
Presidency of the European Union on the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict, which was
issued on 21 July 1999 (see annex).

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

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 21 July 1999 by the Presidency of the
European Union on the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict

The European Union welcomes the decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999, to approve the modalities for the implementation of the OAU framework agreement on the settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The European Union reiterates its support to the framework agreement and expresses its full support also to its modalities. The European Union urges Ethiopia and Eritrea to subscribe immediately to the modalities, end all hostilities, proceed to the signature of a ceasefire agreement and fully implement the OAU framework agreement.

The European Union commends the efforts of OAU and all those who have supported it in its search for a peaceful solution to the conflict, which has caused enormous human and physical losses in Ethiopia and Eritrea, jeopardizes political and economic stability in the two countries and in the region, and undermines their capacity to attract foreign support needed for their development.

The European Union expresses its full support to the Chairman of OAU, President Abdulaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, in his efforts to vigorously pursue the peace process until a comprehensive settlement of the conflict has been achieved. Both the United Nations and OAU are called upon to cooperate closely in their common endeavour of ensuring the full implementation of the framework agreement and its modalities, including the deployment of military observers by OAU member States. The European Union stands ready to assist.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.
