FRE TESFAMICAEL VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION OF TIGRAY P.O. BOX 450 MEKELLE, TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

February 10, 1999

Mr. CARL MANN 6711 South 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue Circle Omaha, Nebraska 68137 USA

DEAR Mr. Mann

I've received your letter of 20/12/98 & 21/12/98 and thanks for your information. Our station has received similar letters from different parts of Europe and America.

The station you heard on 20/12/98 in the frequency of 5500Khz at 06:53-07:23hrs. UTC is truly ours. Our radio is not a newly installed radio station. It has been broadcasting ever since 1986 from the bushes of Tigray we used to call the liberated area during the past armed struggle period we waged against the pro-Soviet fashist regime. The people of Tigray lead by the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) fought for 17 years against Soviet intervention and fashist Military junta of the Derg. We have paid a lot of sacrifices.

Since that times the radio has been the Voice of the People of Tigray. It was installed with the help of Tigrayans living inside and outside Tigray as immigrants in different parts of the world.

The radio was a symbol of unity of our people, through which our people speak about their horrible times under the late feudal system of Emperor HaileSellasie and under the fashist Derg Regime. It was a radio, through which our people used to know the sources of their atrocities, the solution to their problems. It was a radio, which helped our people to organize themselves around the Democratic principles of TPLF.

Our Radio the Voice of the Revolution of Tigray was the first Tigrigna language Voice that truly informed, educated and entertained the Tigray people. It developed credibility in the people and was considered as a voice that directs the daily life of the people.

In 1991 the war ended. The Soviet backed Derg regime was toppled down. Our organization TPLF with its sister member organizations of Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front EPRDF came to power through a democratic election.

A new era has began in Ethiopia. Democratic institutions are structured and functioning. Basic human and political rights including freedom of belief are respected. Peace is consolidated. The whole Ethiopian Peoples are now progressing towards development. Economic conditions are improving. Our country has started developing at a rate of more than 7% annually. We are having excellent international relations. Foreign investors are coming. Annual inflation has fallen to 1% etc.

And our radio is now working for the consolidation of the already gained peace and democracy, for the enhancement of Socio-economic development by giving relevant information and education our people.

The Voice of the Revolution of Tigray is broadcasted, using 10kw short-wave (AM) transmitter from the capital city of Tigray (one of the autonomous regional states of Ethiopia), Mekelle for 50 hrs. Weekly, on 5500khz & 7515khz short wave.

Its present air time programs are as follows:

Monday to Friday Morning 0400 - 0500 (UTC)

Midday 0930 - 1030 (UTC)

Evening 1500 - 1900 (UTC)

Saturday & Sunday Morning 0400 - 0900 (UTC)

Afternoon1100 - 1630 (UTC)

These airtime programs can be expanded for the future. The radio's area of coverage with excellent reception are Ethiopia, Eritrea, and other Horn of African countries and The Middle East. The language is Tigrigna.

We wish you one-day come to Ethiopia and see Tigray. Tigray has many tourist attractions. Ancient obelisks and Rock-hewn churches, different cultural expressions, social activities, attractive landscapes.

Ethiopia as a whole is well known for its different wild life and landscape. The Mountain Nyala and the Red Fox, the wild animals, are found only in Ethiopia. Many tourists are now coming to Ethiopia.

We hope to hear from your once again.

With best wishes

Fre\*Tesfamichael Director, VORT FRE TESFAMICHAEL P.O. BOX 450 MEKELLE, TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA

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