ACTION OCS-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 AF-00 CA-00 DHSE-00 UTED-00 FOE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 CAEX-00 PER-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 STPD-00 NCTC-00 FMP-00 SAS-00 FA-00 /000W

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-02660 Doc No. C05111533 Date: 11/25/2013
ministers of the other responsible ministries (Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Affairs) in approximately one week to discuss his proposal. Mesfin said he would be interested in post's input about how Ethiopia could improve its regulations to gain greater control of the intercountry adoption process. He said he thought the proliferation of adoption agencies (70 agencies in all, 24 of which are American) was a problem and wondered aloud if perhaps his government ought to limit licensing to two or three of the best American agencies.

4. Conoff told Mesfin post was ready to help in any way it can, including providing input about how best to institute a halt, should the GoE decide to go ahead with this plan. Conoff told him the Department appreciates that the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) does not have the resources to adequately screen/evaluate and monitor the large number of adoption agencies. He noted MOWA's interest in possibly limiting licensing of U.S. agencies to those that have Hague accreditation in the U.S., and suggested such a policy has merit. He noted that accreditation in the U.S. is a good litmus test and might be used by the GoE to identify agencies that have shown evidence of meeting certain standards of practice.

5. Mesfin's remarks about temporarily halting intercountry adoption came after Conoff delivered a series of points: he expressing the Department's encouragement for Ethiopia's interest in working toward Hague accreditation; he reiterated the Department's offer to work with the Hague Permanent Bureau to identify technical support for the GoE in drafting legislation, policy, and regulations to meet the Convention standards; and he said the Department could help by suggesting ways for the GoE to build its capacity while providing input as to how it can improve its policies, procedures.

6. Post will follow up with the responsible ministries to provide input about the advisability of a halt to intercountry adoptions and if a halt is imminent, how such a halt might best be implemented. Post notes that the GoE has threatened to halt intercountry adoptions in the past. Sometimes it has followed through and halted adoptions. At other times it did not. Post appreciates Department's guidance and suggestions as it attempts to point the GoE in the right direction on intercountry adoptions.

YAMAMOTO

NNNN