REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ4081

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ACTION OCS-03

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DEPT FOR CA/OCS/CI AND CA/VO/F/P
NAIROBI FOR INS OIC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS
SUBJECT: ADOPTIONS: AFRICAN CRADLE LOSES LICENSE IN ETHIOPIA

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA 1781; B) ADDIS ABABA 1309;
C) ADDIS ABABA 513

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY
OF JUSTICE HAS ISSUED A DECISION STATING THAT THE
WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND AFRICAN CRADLE ADOPTION AGENCY
HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY SEVERED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS
CANCELED AFRICAN CRADLE'S LICENSE TO DO BUSINESS IN
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ETHIOPIA.

2. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FURTHER DECLARED THAT
THE CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN THE AFRICAN CRADLE
ORPHANAGE SHOULD BE TAKEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
(CYFAD), WHICH IS THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ENTITY
THAT OVERSEES INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS. THERE ARE
APPROXIMATELY 50 CHILDREN IN THE HOME. IN ADDITION,
AFRICAN CRADLE'S PROPERTY IS BEING SEIZED BY THE
GOVERNMENT.

3. THE CYFAD REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD CONOFF THAT
THE CHILDREN WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE AFRICAN CRADLE
HOME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE IS AWARE THAT THERE ARE
AMERICAN FAMILIES INTERESTED IN ADOPTING THE CHILDREN
FROM THE AFRICAN CRADLE HOME. INDEED, MANY HAVE BEEN
PAYING SUMS OF TWO HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS MONTHLY, FOR
MANY MONTHS, TO COVER COSTS OF THE CARE AND FEEDING
OF THE CHILD THEY ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING.
4. IT APPEARS THAT CYFAD INTENDS TO ASSIGN THE CHILDREN TO THE ORPHANAGES RUN BY TWO OTHER U.S.-BASED ADOPTION AGENCIES: AMERICANS FOR AFRICAN ADOPTION, AND ADOPTION ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL. (NOTE: TO MAKE MATTERS CONFUSING, THE NEW ADOPTION AGENCY PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION PROJECT IS NOW CALLED ADOPTION ADVOCATES INCORPORATED.) IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THESE TWO AGENCIES HAVE AGREED TO THIS ARRANGEMENT OR HOW MUCH THEY WOULD CHARGE THE ADOPTING PARENTS. THESE FORMER AFRICAN CRADLE UNCLASSIFIED

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CLIENTS HAVE ALREADY SPENT SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IN ENTERING INTO THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH AFRICAN CRADLE.

5. REFTEL A MENTIONED THE SPECIFIC CASE OF ___________

A U.S. CITIZEN

6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE ADOPTION FLYER FOR ETHIOPIA, AVAILABLE ON THE CA WEBSITE, BE UPDATED TO DELETE THE AFRICAN CRADLE AGENCY. AT THIS TIME THE ONLY TWO AGENCIES THAT SHOULD BE LISTED ARE ADOPTION ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL AND AMERICANS FOR AFRICAN ADOPTION.

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