

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ5110

RELEASED IN PART B6

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01781 01 OF 02 250547Z
ACTION VO-03

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 CA-02 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INSE-00 L-00
NSAE-00 OCS-03 IRM-00 SAS-00 /008W
-----5B37E0 250547Z /38

R 250548Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0196
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 001781

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

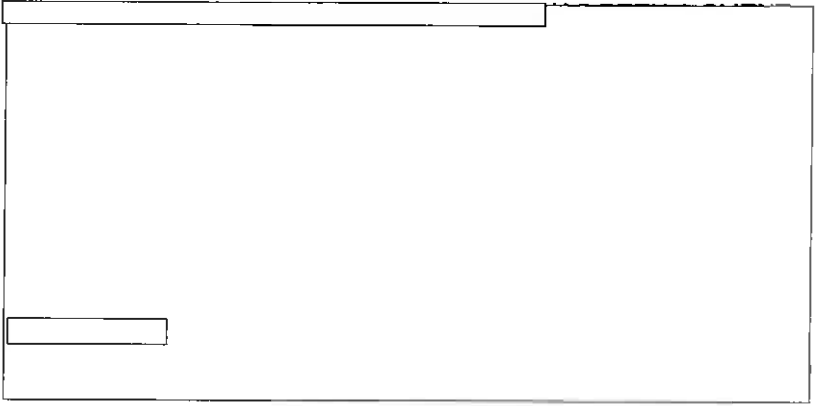
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS
SUBJECT: ADOPTION IN ETHIOPIA: NEW AGENCY GAINS
GROUND, AFRICAN CRADLE'S PROBLEMS CONTINUE

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

1. SUMMARY: AFRICAN CRADLE ADOPTION AGENCY'S SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA CONTINUES TO BE PRECARIOUS DUE TO CONFLICTS WITH THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (CYFAD) WHICH IS THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY THAT OVERSEES INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS. GOVERNMENT CLOSURE OF THE AFRICAN CRADLE CHILDREN'S HOME SEEMS POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR TERM.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01781 01 OF 02 250547Z
AFRICAN CRADLE IS PURSUING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CYFAD. MEANWHILE, A NEW AGENCY CALLED THE ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION PROJECT, IS THRIVING AND WILL BRING 19 CHILDREN TO THE EMBASSY FOR PROCESSING OF ORPHAN VISAS BETWEEN MAY 30 AND JUNE 2. END SUMMARY.

2. CONOFF WAS VISITED ON MAY 22 BY U.S. CITIZEN



B6



B6

3. MR. [REDACTED] HAD ALSO CONTACTED CYFAD, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT OFFICE VISITED CONOFF ALONG WITH MR. [REDACTED] IT IS THE VIEW OF CYFAD THAT SINCE THEY WERE THE ENTITY THAT ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED THE CHILD TO THE AFRICAN CRADLE ORPHANAGE, THEY ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

B6

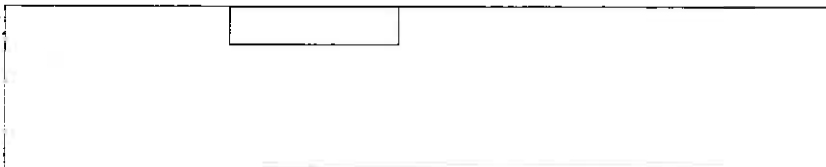
B6

PAGE 03 ADDIS 01781 01 OF 02 250547Z
SHOULD HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO NOW RE-ASSIGN THE CHILD TO THE ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION PROJECT HOME.

4. CONOFF CONTACTED AFRICAN CRADLE AND LEARNED THEY ARE INDEED WARY OF TRANSFERRING THE CHILD. THEY FEAR THAT BY RELEASING ONE CHILD, A PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET AND ULTIMATELY THERE WOULD BE AN EXODUS OF ALL THE OTHER CHILDREN IN THEIR HOME TO THE COMPETITOR'S ORPHANAGE. MS. STINE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING WHAT THE LEGAL PROCEDURES WERE UNDER ETHIOPIAN LAW FOR TRANSFERRING A CHILD FROM ONE ADOPTION AGENCY TO ANOTHER. CONOFF OFFERED TO ASK CYFAD TO FURNISH HER WITH A WRITTEN CLARIFICATION OF THIS.
5. CONOFF WAS VISITED BY AMBER STINE AND BRENDA ADAMS, A BOARD MEMBER OF AFRICAN CRADLE LATER IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 22. IN REFTEL A, EMBASSY HAD REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS DESCRIBING INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL MOLESTATION OF ORPHANS AT THE AFRICAN CRADLE HOME. AFRICAN CRADLE HAS ASKED THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE LEAKING OF THE REPORT TO THE MEDIA. AFRICAN CRADLE ASSERTS THAT CYFAD HAS STEPPED WELL BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF ITS AUTHORITY AND HAD NO RIGHT TO INITIATE THE INVESTIGATION. MS. STINE ALSO INDICATED THAT HAD SHE BEEN WILLING TO PAY BRIBES TO CYFAD, NONE OF HER CURRENT PROBLEMS WOULD BE OCCURRING.
6. MS. STINE AND MS. ADAMS SAID THEY WERE FAIRLY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ADDIS 01781 01 OF 02 250547Z
OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WILL FIND THAT CYFAD ACTED IMPROPERLY AND THAT SOME CORRECTIVE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN. CONOFF SUGGESTED THAT A POSSIBLE ALTERNATE OUTCOME WOULD BE FOR THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA ENTITIES TO CLOSE RANKS, AND THE DECISION MIGHT GO AGAINST AFRICAN CRADLE AFTER ALL. IF THAT HAPPENS, MS. STINE VOWED, AFRICAN CRADLE WOULD SHUT DOWN OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA.

7



B6

8. THERE SEEMS TO BE A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT CYFAD COULD TAKE BOLD ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND SEIZE ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE AFRICAN CRADLE HOME FOR TRANSFER ELSEWHERE. IF THIS OCCURS, THERE WILL BE A FLURRY OF CALLS FROM CONCERNED AFRICAN CRADLE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ5111

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01781 02 OF 02 250547Z
ACTION VO-03

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 CA-02 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INSE-00 L-00
NSAE-00 OCS-03 SAS-00 /008W
-----5B37E2 250547Z /38

R 250548Z MAY 00
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0197
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 001781

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CVIS
SUBJECT: ADOPTION IN ETHIOPIA: NEW AGENCY GAINS
GROUND, AFRICAN CRADLE'S PROBLEMS CONTINUE

CLIENTS. IF THE CHILDREN'S CASES CAN BE TRANSFERRED
TO THE OTHER ADOPTION AGENCY, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM
MAY BE RESOLVED IN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER.
NAGY

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>