

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer

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RELEASED IN PART B6

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ACTION OCS-03

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 CA-02 UTEG-00 TEDE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00
VO-03 SAS-00 /008W
-----60DC53 090354Z /38

R 090356Z JUN 00
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0442
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 001977

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 CANCELLED 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

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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 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A U.S. CITIZEN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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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