

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer**

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ACTION VO-03

**RELEASED IN PART B6**

INFO LOG-00 AF-00 CA-02 UTEG-00 H-01 TEDE-00 L-00  
NSAE-00 OCS-03 IRM-00 SAS-00 /009W  
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R 140433Z FEB 00  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8971

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 000513

FOR CA/OCS/CI AND CA/VO/F/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CASC [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS ON ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION SCENE

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1. SUMMARY: ONE OF THE MAIN PLAYERS ON THE  
ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION SCENE, AFRICAN CRADLE, IS NOW OFF

THE LIST OF APPROVED AGENCIES WITH WHOM THE  
GOVERNMENTAL CENTRAL AUTHORITY WILL WORK. THE CAUSE  
OF THE BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN CRADLE IS  
CONNECTED WITH THE CASE OF AN ORPHAN PREVIOUSLY  
ADOPTED BY AMERICANS WHO WAS SENT BACK TO ETHIOPIA  
WITH THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF AFRICAN CRADLE  
FOUNDER AMBER STIME. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THE CHILDREN, YOUTH  
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AND FAMILY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (CYFAD), WHICH IS THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA'S CENTRAL AUTHORITY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS, HAS REMOVED AFRICAN CRADLE  
FROM ITS SELECT LIST OF APPROVED ADOPTION AGENCIES.  
A FEW CASES WHICH WERE IN THE PIPELINE HAVE BEEN  
HANDLED IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT  
THERE WILL BE NO MORE. THIS WILL STRIKE A SERIOUS  
BLOW TO AFRICAN CRADLE, AS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF  
ITS CASES ARE ETHIOPIAN. FURTHER, IN RECENT YEARS,  
APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT OF MISSION'S ADOPTION  
CASELOAD HAS BEEN THROUGH AFRICAN CRADLE. ANOTHER  
U.S.-BASED ADOPTION AGENCY, CALLED ETHIOPIAN  
ADOPTION PROJECT, IS POISED TO COME ON THE SCENE.  
WHILE THEY DO NOT YET HAVE CYFAD'S OFFICIAL APPROVAL  
YET, WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT THIS IS VERY  
LIKELY.

3. A KEY REASON THAT AFRICAN CRADLE HAS FALLEN  
INTO DISFAVOR WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVES  
THE CASE OF [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AMBER STIME WAS THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY CONNECTION'S OFFICE IN ETHIOPIA. MS. STIME HAS SINCE ESTABLISHED HER OWN ADOPTION AGENCY, CALLED AFRICAN CRADLE.

4. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED] CYFAD HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CASE AND HAS CONTACTED THE EMBASSY FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING THE CHILD TO THE U.S. UNDER ETHIOPIAN LAW, ALL ADOPTIONS HERE ARE FINAL, IRREVERSIBLE AND IRREVOCABLE.

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8. CONOFF HAS SPOKEN WITH AMBER STIME ABOUT THE MATTER. MS. STIME SAYS THAT THE CASE IS NOT AN AFRICAN CRADLE CASE AND AS SUCH IT IS NOT SOMETHING SHE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN. EMBASSY ADVISED HER THAT AS FAR AS CYFAD WAS CONCERNED, SHE WAS VERY MUCH

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INVOLVED AND THAT IT WOULD BEHOOVE HER TO STEP IN AND RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. TO NOT HELP RETURN [REDACTED]

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TO THE U.S. WOULD JEOPARDIZE HER CONTINUED OPERATIONS AS AN APPROVED ADOPTION AGENCY HERE IN ETHIOPIA.

9. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY FAXED A LETTER OF INQUIRY TO THE ADOPTIVE MOTHER IN THE U.S., MRS. [REDACTED] ASKING WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR HER DAUGHTER [REDACTED] WELFARE AND RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] END QUOTE.

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EMBASSY HAS NOT HEARD FURTHER FROM MRS.  OR  
HER ATTORNEY.

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10. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT UPDATED ON FURTHER  
DEVELOPMENTS. NAGY

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