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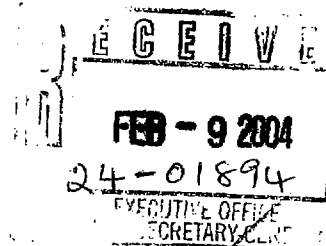
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THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ



9 February 2004

LSH

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

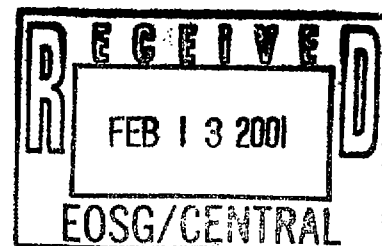
I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 29 January 2004 concerning your decision to appoint Mr. Lloyd Axworthy (Canada) as your Special Envoy for Eritrea and Ethiopia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

In welcoming this decision, the members of the Council recall the statement to the Press made by the President on 30 January 2004, expressing full support for your good offices mission. They also look forward to close cooperation with your Special Envoy.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Wang Guangya
President of the Security Council

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
New York



The President of the Security Council presents his compliments to the members of the Council and has the honour to transmit herewith, for their attention,
..... **copies of a letter dated 29 January 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council and a draft reply thereto.**

It would be the intention of the President, in the absence of any objection, to send the reply, as drafted, to the Secretary-General on **Monday, 9 February 2004, at 11.30 a.m.**, and thereafter to circulate the texts of both letters as documents of the Security Council.

5 February 2004



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

29 January 2004

Dear Mr. President,

Despite various efforts to break the stalemate, the lack of progress in the implementation of the Algiers Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea remains a cause for serious concern and could have negative implications for the future of the two countries as well as the region.

In order to explore with the two Governments how best the current impasse in the implementation of the Algiers Agreement could be overcome, I have offered my good offices to the two parties, and decided to appoint Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, former Foreign Minister of Canada, as my Special Envoy for Ethiopia and Eritrea to help in this effort.

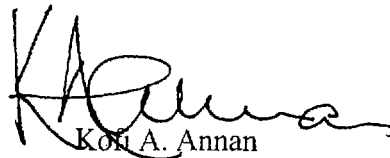
As the President of the Security Council stated in his statement to the press on 7 January 2004, the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, which the parties accepted in advance as final and binding, has to be implemented expeditiously. The statement also expressed support for my offer of good offices and noted that the offer did not represent a new or alternative mechanism. I have underscored to the parties that my initiative will focus on the implementation of the Algiers Agreement, the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, and help the two parties create a mutually advantageous situation, through dialogue and improved relations.

To be successful, this initiative will require not only the strong and sustained political will and commitment of the two Governments, but also the full engagement and support of the international community, in particular the Security Council, on which I count.

His Excellency
Mr. Heraldo Muñoz
President of the Security Council
New York

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Kofi A. Annan

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 29 January 2004 concerning your decision to appoint Mr. Lloyd Axworthy (Canada) as your Special Envoy for Eritrea and Ethiopia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

In welcoming this decision, the members of the Council recall the statement to the Press made by the President on 30 January 2004, expressing full support for your good offices mission. They also look forward to close cooperation with your Special Envoy.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Wang Guangya
President of the Security Council

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
New York