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Mr. WOLDEAB WOLDEMARIAM

ADDRESSES A LETTER

TO THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE E. L. F.

ANNOUNCING HIS JOINING THE FRONT

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Eri. 1967/10/1 Manuscript.

Dear comrades in arms,

Your « close the ranks » appeal to the Eritrean People, published in your party's organ, the «Sawra » newspaper in August 1967, has given me great joy and fresh hope for a bright and glorious future for our beloved country. May I express sincere congratulations and praise to you and to your comrades, for such a patriotic and far-seeing gesture and initiative which will, I believe, receive an enthusiastic and unreserved support from all sections of our people, give new impetus to the armed struggle and a devastating blow to the enemy's desperate attempt to sow dissension and division among us.

I, likewise, wish to express sincere admiration for your party's political programme as stated in the appeal and which is : « Full independence for the Fatherland », a democratic government based on democratic principles which will assure to the Eritrean people full enjoyment of all fundamental freedoms resolutely opposing religious fanaticism, factionalism, tribalism and regionalism or any other discrimination based on motive or motives incompatible with the above-mentioned principles and objectives.

May I assure you that this highly inspired political programme is precisely that for which I, myself, and many other Eritreans, have struggled for many years in the past and are still resolved to do so in the future, hand in hand, with you and all members of your party.

Your repeated appeal for « Unity, mutual trust and brotherly love among Eritreans », also was admirably wise and patriotic, as nothing in the world is more successful and victorious than the «Unity» of purpose and action of a people who have set themselves the great and difficult task of liberating their country.

We all agree, dear comrades, that no Eritrean has to-day the right to make himself a stranger to the Cause of his country, or to remain indifferent and unconcerned about the many sufferings of his fellow countrymen. Nor have we the right to be divided in such a critical period of the whole history of our country. We have and must be able to live up to the seriousness of the stage through which our people are now passing. We must learn from the mistakes we committed in the past - the principal causes of our country's present tragedy.

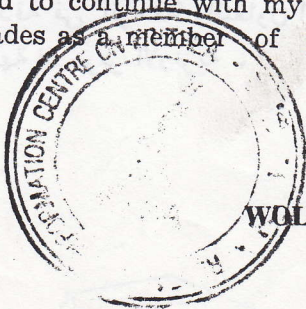
In fact, had we behaved as one man at the time when the United Nations Commissions of Inquiry visited our country twice, Ethiopia would not have been able to prevail over our determination to remain a free and independent people. We then entered the battleground badly divided, and we fell because, divided, we always fall, but United, we stand, even against a violent attack and pressure such as those to which we were and are subjected on the part of Ethiopia and her accomplices.

And it is with this sense of responsibility and keen desire for «UNITY» and fraternal cooperation that I have to-day decided to continue with my share of the common struggle together with you and the other comrades as a member of your party, the ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT.

Date : 1st October, 1967.

Yours Sincerely,
Signed

WOLDEAB WOLDEMARIAM



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