

17

Letter Of Understanding  
Between the Government of Sudan, the Transitional  
Government of Ethiopia and UNHCR on the Voluntary  
Repatriation Program for Ethiopian Refugees in Sudan

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the three parties in Khartoum on February 2, 1993 and the subsequent meetings which have taken place in Addis Ababa and Khartoum, many achievements have been made to practically put into effect the voluntary repatriation programme.

Considering the difficulties which have ensued in keeping the agreed time schedule, and the fact that many Ethiopian refugees have prepared themselves for repatriation with the ensuing consequences for their welfare, and in order to assist as soon as possible refugees in some camps to return to their home country, the three parties have agreed to take exceptional measures to expedite the voluntary repatriation program.

In recognition of the problems encountered in the past and envisaging the future activities to be undertaken by the Technical Committee in Khartoum, high level meetings of the three parties were convened on May 5 and 6, 1993 at COR.

In these meetings, the Government of Sudan was represented by H.E. The State Minister for Refugee Affairs, Brig. p.s.c. (R) Abdel Rahman Sir El Khatim, and other colleagues of COR, the Transitional Government of Ethiopia by H.E. Ambassador Ofato Alew and other diplomats, and the UNHCR by the Representative Mr. John Horekens and other UNHCR staff.

The meeting reviewed at length the problems and difficulties encountered by the three parties in the past three months, and stressed the need to revitalize the Memorandum of Understanding by undertaking extraordinary measures which would facilitate information to the refugees, data collection, and the movement of refugees in some camps without deflecting from the previously agreed Memorandum of Understanding and Operations Plan.

Based on the above mentioned discussions and common understanding, it has been agreed that:

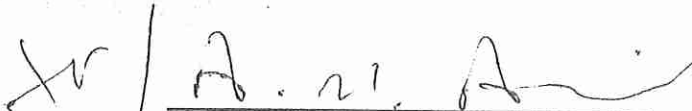
1. Joint information efforts be started immediately for Ethiopian refugees to include an explanation of why the repatriation operation has been delayed.
2. A comprehensive data collection should commence immediately in order to provide the Ethiopian side with information necessary for the reception of the returnees.

A y


ab

3. Upon confirmation from the Technical Committee in Ethiopia that reception arrangements at different locations are ready, formal registration and movement will take place as soon as possible.
4. After the completion of this exercise, the repatriation program will revert to and follow the previously agreed plan for information, registration and movement.


For the Government of  
Sudan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brig. p.s.c. (R)  
Abdel Rahman Sir El Khatim

For the Transitional  
Government of Ethiopia

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ato Ofato Alew  
Ethiopian Ambassador

For the United Nation High  
Commissioner for Refugees

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. John Horekens  
Representative in Sudan

May 10, 1993