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LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the
Presidency of the European Union on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia
issued on 15 January 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its
annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, issued
on 15 January 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union reiterates its full support for the proposals of the High-Level Delegation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for a framework agreement, which was endorsed at the OAU's Central Organ Summit Meeting on 17 December 1998 and to the OAU's ongoing commitment to mediate in the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The European Union is ready to assist the OAU further in that endeavour.

The European Union urges both parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the OAU mediation and to renew their efforts in order to achieve a peaceful negotiated settlement of their conflict in all its aspects. It is of primary importance that the OAU proposals for a framework agreement be accepted and put into practice without further delay.

While remaining seriously concerned at the continuing flow of arms into the region, the European Union once again calls upon both parties to continue to refrain from any military action and to work for a de-escalation of the conflict by adopting policies geared to the restoration of confidence between the Governments and the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia, including measures to improve the humanitarian situation.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the countries of the European Free Trade Association, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.
