IN TWO HOURS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND
FIVE ADDITIONAL HOURS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOV. 9 I WAS
TREATED TO FULL EXPOSITION ETHIOPIAN ALARM OVER SOVIET ARMS
BUILDUP IN SOMALIA. THIS ALARM POSES REAL PROBLEMS FOR
US.

2. AKRM IS RESULT OF SEVERAL FACTORS: UNSHAKABLE ETHIOPIAN
CONVICTION IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF MAGNITUDE OF SOMALI BUILDUP
AND SOMALI AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS; CONVICTION THAT WEAKNESS IN
ETHIOPIAN FORCES IS NO DETERRENT TO SOMALI EXPANSION; LACK OF
RELIEF FROM EMPEROR'S LATEST MOSCOW VISIT; UNEXPECTED
US DEPARTURE FROM KAGNEW; DISAPPOINTMENT WITH US RESPONSE
ON DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS; AND DISCOVERY OF OIL AND GAS IN
OGADEN WHICH MAKES AREA MORE ATTRACTIVE AS A PRIZE.
CONVERSATION MADE CLEAR THAT BASIC CONCERN IS THAT LOSS OF
ANY SIGNIFICANT TERRITORY TO CITY COULD HAVE DISINTEGRATIVE
EFFECT ON
INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN STRUCTURE POSING SERIOUS THREATS
TO REGIME. EVEN IF OAU AND UN INTERVENE, IF SOMALI
SEIZES TERRITORY, ETHIOPIANS BELIEVE THIS SIGN OF WEAKNESS
COULD CAUSE INTERNAL DISTURBANCES.

3. EXPOSITION WAS SPARKED IN PART BY MY PRESENTATION OF
CLEAR LIMITATIONS OF US MILITARY AID AND SUGGESTION THAT ETHIOPIA
FREE TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE SOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT WE DO.
IEG CLEARLY FEELS ONLY REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES ARE SOVIET UNION
AND CHINA AND BOTH OF THESE RAISE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THEM
AND FOR US. WESTERN EUROPEAN SOURCES RULED OUT BECAUSE OF
COSTS (FRANCE) AND DISINTEREST IN STRATEGIC CHARACTER OF AREA
(U.K.) ETHIOPIA SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM ARAB STATES.

4. WE CAN CHALLENGE ETHIOPIA'S ASSUMPTIONS BOTH REGARDING
SOMALIA'S INTENTIONS AND ETHIOPIAN MILITARY WEAKNESS. OUR
ASSESSMENTS DIFFER ON BOTH. WE CAN PRESS THEM TO TAKE
GREATER ADVANTAGE OF THEIR INCREASING CURRENT RESOURCES TO
SUPPLEMENT MAP AND CAN TRY TO ENCOURAGE MORE REALISTIC
LOOK AT WHAT THEY NEED. WE CAN TRY TO COAX THEM TO
COOPERATE IN THE OAU COMMITTEE TO FIND SOLUTION. ETHIOPIANS
REJECT THESE APPROACHES.

5. CONVERSATIONS MADE CLEAR THAT NEITHER EMPEROR, PRIME
MINISTER NOR FOREIGN MINISTER GENUINELY BELIEVE US UNABLE
TO DO MORE THAN CURRENT PROPOSALS ON MAP AND FMS.
FOREIGN MIN SAID "WE ARE NOT ASKING MUCH--ONLY EQUIPMENT
WORTH PERHAPS $100 MILLION, THIS SHOULD BE EASY FOR US IF
IT UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEM." THEY APPARE CONVINCED
ETHIOPIA IS VICTIM OF NIXON DOCTRINE WHOSE IMPORT THEY
SIMPLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

6. WE FACE PROBLEM THEREFORE THAT ETHIOPIA CONVINCED IT
HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO RAPID INCREASE IN MILITARY STRENGTH
AND MUST HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE HARDWARE. NO REALISTIC
ASSESSMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL OPINION SUGGESTS WE CAN
SUPPLY IT. MUCH OF WHAT WE HAVE GIVEN THEM WILL BE
GROWING OBSOLETE IN NEXT FIVE YEARS AND PRESSURE WILL GROW.
THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF EXTENT OUR STRATEGIC REQUIREMENTS
AND FUTURE INTERESTS AS WELL AS DEGREE TO WHICH WE SHOULD
PUT MAJOR US RESOURCES INTO VULNERABLE REGIME RULED BY
AGING EMPEROR, ON OTHER HAND LOSS OF ETHIOPIAN-TO RADICAL
INFLUENCE COULD AFFECT OUR TOTAL POSITION IN RED SEA AREA AND BE ONE MORE CASE OF AMERICAN-BACKED COUNTRY APPEARING TO LOSE OUT TO SOVIET-BACKED COUNTRY.

7. I SEE THESE ALTERNATIVES:

A. EXPEDITE TO UTMOST DELIVERY OF PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED AND FUNDED EQUIPMENT WHILE SEEKING MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF PRESENT AVAILABLE FUNDS INCLUDING SIDEWINDERS TO IMPROVE ETHIOPIAN DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IT IS DOUBTFUL THIS WOULD HOLD ETHIOPIA IN LINE FOR ANY EXTENDED PERIOD. ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SOPHISTICATION OR QUANTITY COULD RISK ESCALATION OF SOVIET DELIVERIES TO SOMALI. THIS IS RISK WE MAY HAVE TO RUN.

B. ENCOURAGE ETHIOPIAN TO SPEND MORE OF ITS OWN RESOURCES ON US EQUIPMENT, THIS THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO DO, BUT COULD DO IF PRESSED.

C. MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO FIND U.S. FUNDS THAT WOULD COVER HIGH PRIORITY MILITARY REQUIREMENT LISTS ESTIMATED AT $29 MILLION.

D. ASK CONGRESS FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO ROUND OUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, THIS IS OBVIOUSLY VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE CONGRESSIONALLY, PARTICULARLY AFTER DEPARTURE FROM KAGNEW.

E. MAKE CLEAR THAT WHILE WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GRANT PROGRAM FOR MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING, WE CAN NO LONGER SUPPLY EQUIPMENT ON GRANT BASIS. THIS WOULD MUST CERTAINLY LEAD ETHIOPIA ELSEWHERE.

F. INDICATE CLEARLY WE DO NOT SEE PROBLEM IN MILITARY AND URGE EFFORT TO FIND MEANS OF LESSENING TENSION, POSSIBLE THROUGH TROOP SEPARATION AND/OR ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

8. TO ACQUAINT ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS AND POSSIBLY TO ASSIST US IN CONTINUING TO GET MAP FOR ETHIOPIA, I HAVE SUGGESTED HE COME TO WASHINGTON WHILE CONGRESS IN SESSION AT WHICH TIME WE WOULD SEEK ARRANGE
PAGE 04  KHARTO 02432  1112562

VISIT FOR HIM TO KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. HE HAS SAID HE
WILL COME AND WISHES US SUGGEST DATES.

9. I WILL WISH DISCUSS WHOLE ISSUE ON MY RETURN.
BREWER