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THE CROWN COUNCIL OF ETHIOPIA

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Alexandria, Virginia: July 28, 2017

His Excellency the Hon. Shane Stone, AC, GCHT, GCEL, PGDK, QC
And Her Excellency Mrs Josephine Stone, AM, GCSE
Australia.

Dear Shane and Josephine:

It was with truly great sadness that I bade farewell to Australia after a most moving, memorable, and important visit to your beautiful country, but parting with you both in Canberra after the Australian War Memorial visit was particularly poignant for me. I wish you could have shared the *entire* visit with us to see the magnificent impact of all that you helped to organize. I hope that you will see, as the Ethiopian community worldwide begins to come together again, just how much impact your kindness and influence has had on the lives of tens of millions of people.

It was a privilege for me, on behalf of the Crown, to have been able to recognise you both with the highest orders of the Trinity and the Star. These were not idle gestures, and I hope that, as history unfolds, you will see the part your support has played in helping to restore the path of progress to the Ethiopian People. But it was also a wonderful period of friendship which you shared with me, personally, for which I will always be grateful.

As I know you've discussed with Greg, the entire visit went flawlessly. Your superbly-organised Welcome Dinner at the Australian Club, the arrangement of the Paspaley reception, the luncheon and Question Time gatherings at Parliament, the fabulous dinner at the Ottoman Restaurant in Canberra, and, of course, arranging The Jet! All were wonderful. But I don't under-estimate for a moment the work (and years of relationships) which went into organising the Parliamentary events (from the Speaker's recognition from the Floor, to the Prime Minister's interest in meeting), to the flawless and breathtaking meaning of the War Memorial visit.

I look forward to seeing you again soon, but wanted you to know how important your contribution has been to me, and to Ethiopia. Your friendship is very meaningful to me.

H.I.H. Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie
President of the Crown Council