

وزير الشؤون الخارجية عدم المخارجية المحكم المخارجية

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ref: OM/502/2011

03 December 2011

Excellency,

I am writing to bring to your attention and the attention of all members of the Security Council Eritrea's strong objection to the attempt to deny it by subterfuge its reasonable and legitimate right to address the Council in order to present pertinent facts and raise substantial issues affecting the Horn of Africa region.

For the past five weeks, the United States doggedly obstructed Eritrea's request in order to prevent the intervention of President Isaias Afwerki from having any influence on the Council's deliberations. Having undertaken a campaign of pressure and disinformation throughout that time, it sought first to impose a precipitate vote on the Security Council and when that failed, it resorted to the not-so-subtle tactic of making the President's intervention logistically impossible and rendering it a mere formality and utterly meaningless.

This action by the United States has made a mockery of the United Nations Security Council. Eritrea calls on all Council members to uphold their responsibility to defend the credibility of the Security Council and make it possible for Eritrea to meaningfully participate in its deliberations at the highest level.

Once again, Excellency, there is absolutely no justification for rushing a sanctions resolution that is designed to inflict suffering on the Eritrean people and that will have grave consequences for the peoples of the Horn of Africa.

> Osman SalehS Minister of Foreign A

the State of Eritrea

His Excellency Mr. Vitaly Churkin President of the Security Council New York