

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is the oldest independent country of Africa. Under the leadership of Emperor Haile Selassie I, Ethiopia has taken a prominent and constructive role in the affairs of the African Continent. The two most important intra-African organizations, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, have their headquarters in the capital city, Addis Ababa.

ASMARA

Kagnew Station.—The study mission visited Asmara, Ethiopia, where the U.S. Government Communications Center is located. Kagnew Station, as it is called, is a major link in the global communications network which provides rapid communications for all departments of the U.S. Government.

The mission of Kagnew Station is to provide U.S. communications within Africa and the Middle East and for linkage of this area to other worldwide U.S. communications. Its location at Asmara is technologically advantageous because of the altitude of the Ethiopian highland plateau and its proximity to the relatively interference-free equatorial belt.

In 1952, when Eritrea was reunited with Ethiopia, an agreement was negotiated between the United States and Ethiopia providing for the enlargement of an existing American-operated radio station.

At the present time, Kagnew Station leases a total of 1,381 hectares of land from the Ethiopian Government. Only 180 hectares (432 acres) covered by buildings or parking areas are used exclusively by the station. The remaining 1,201 hectares of land are open to continued use by their Ethiopian owners for agricultural and grazing purposes. The Government of the United States pays the Ethiopian Government, which in turn pays the owners a total of Eth\$283,029.24 a year for the rental of these lands.

The legal basis for Kagnew Station's existence in Ethiopia is an agreement which was signed by both Governments and entered into force on May 22, 1953. This agreement reflects the mutual interest of Ethiopia and the United States in the cause of world peace and their recognition of the important part which communications play in preserving peace. It is in effect for 25 years, after which time either Government may give notice of its wish to terminate the agreement.

The total staff of the station comprises nearly 2,900 employees of whom 1,700 are American personnel.

Over 1,000 Ethiopians and 100 nationals from other countries are employed at the station. About 600 Ethiopians work for American families there.

Kagnew Station has been unjustly criticized as a form of neo-colonialism by some Africans. The criticism arises as a result of cer-