

United States-Ethiopian relations have long been amicable, dating back to the first treaty between the two states in 1903. After World War II the ties between the two countries grew steadily closer. This trend was exemplified by the signing on June 16, 1951, of a general technical assistance agreement which has provided the basis for the numerous projects of economic development currently underway. Of equal importance was the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations on September 7, 1951. On May 22, 1953, two agreements were signed. One was the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, by which the United States agreed to furnish Ethiopia with certain military equipment for its internal security and to train the Ethiopian Army in the use of this material. The second agreement regularized the existence and operations of the U.S. Army communications relay station (Kagnew Station) at Asmara.

In May 1954, Emperor Haile Selassie visited the United States and made a 5-week good will tour of the country. Vice President Nixon visited Ethiopia in March 1957. The Emperor made a second weeklong state visit in October 1963. In the following month he returned briefly to Washington to attend the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.

The primary objectives of U.S. policy with respect to Ethiopia include (1) maintenance of friendly, cooperative relations between the two countries; (2) encouraging and assisting the economic and social development of Ethiopia; and (3) supporting, through various programs, the efforts of the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian people to strengthen and unify their nation.