

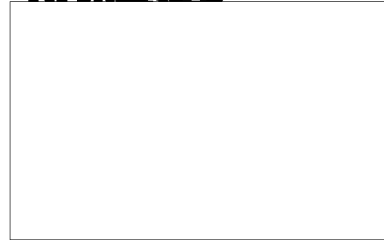
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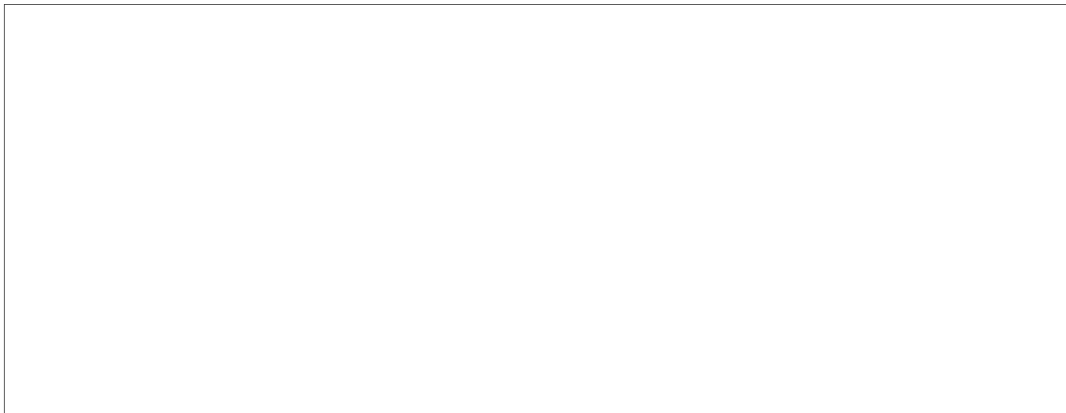
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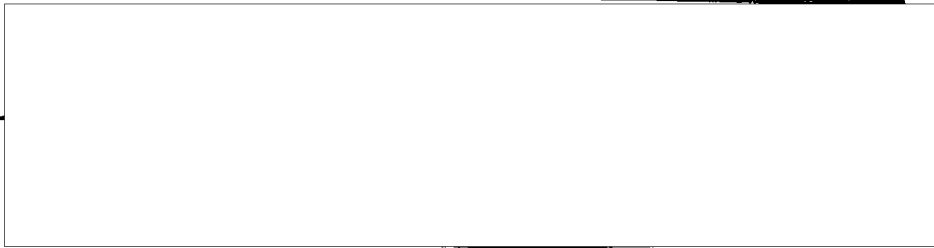


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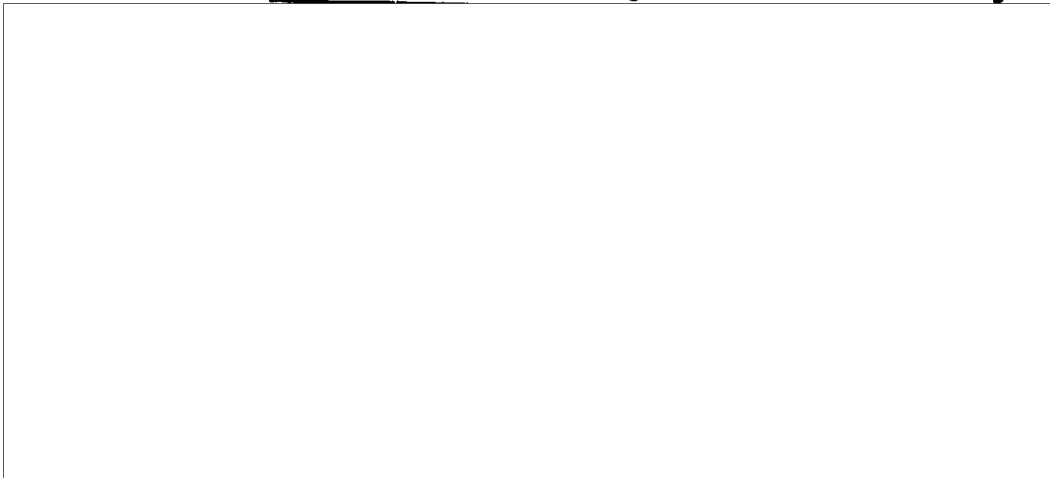
Notes



Ethiopia: Stalling on Falasha Emigration

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NR Record

ETHIOPIA: Stalling on Falasha Emigration

President Mengistu continues to oppose a large-scale, rapid departure of the 16,000 to 18,000 Ethiopian Jews—Falashas—in Addis Ababa. Aides are advising him to drag out emigration.

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[Redacted] suggesting they believe that a continued Falasha presence in Addis Ababa will ensure that Washington and Tel Aviv will protect the capital from a rebel assault.

[Redacted] the Ethiopian Government, [Redacted] continues to demand that Tel Aviv pay exorbitant "transportation costs" arising from an accelerated Falasha exodus. Mengistu reportedly believes that Washington would not abandon its plans for brokering peace talks in London this month just because he has been uncooperative on the Falasha issues.

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Comment: Following the recent rebel victories north and west of the capital, the Falashas probably are becoming increasingly valuable to Mengistu. He probably will not increase the rate of emigration significantly before the peace talks in order to preserve what he sees as leverage over Washington. Addis Ababa might expedite emigration for a large payment, which could be used to buy badly needed arms, but rebel successes could outpace negotiations over the Falashas.

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