

ERITREA

- 17 years of independence
- 124 years of nation building
- With history as old as humanity

Can Japan and Eritrea join hands in peace building to ensure prosperity in the Horn of Africa?



Special Lecture at the course of "International Co-existence"
by Ambassador Estifanos Afeworki
Tokyo Institute of Technology, 14th (Friday) May 2010

Content

- **Why is peace and stability of the Horn strategic to Eritrea?**
- **What were the priorities that Eritrea tackled during the last 17 years?**
- **What did Eritrea achieve and what were the challenges it faced in the last 17 years?**
- **What lesson can we learn from the 124 years of nation building of Eritrea?**
- **What is on the ground currently threatening the stability of the Horn?**
- **What should NOT be the contribution of the “international community” in the Horn today?**
- **What should be the contribution of Japan in the Horn today?**
- **Concluding remarks**
 - **Related papers distributed in the presentation:**
 1. **Ethiopia’s military occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories**
 2. **Eritrea’s position on relations with Djibouti**
 3. **Eritrea’s position on peace and justice in Somalia**
 4. **Position of Eritrea on UN SC arms embargo resolution 1907**

Horn of Africa

	ethno-lingual groups	Population
Eritrea	9	5.5 million
Ethiopia	86	86.0 million
Djibouti	2	0.5 million
Kenya	40	39.0 million
Sudan	600	35.0 million
Somalia	1	10.0 million
Uganda	35	32.0 million
	Total of 746	Total of 203 million

Why is peace and stability of the Horn important to Eritrea?

Eritrea, 17 years old young nation, is in a very crucial period of building a new state with clear objective of building a nation of economic strength and home grown consensus of human security, culture, politics, democracy and governance as a main essence and benchmark of its regional relations

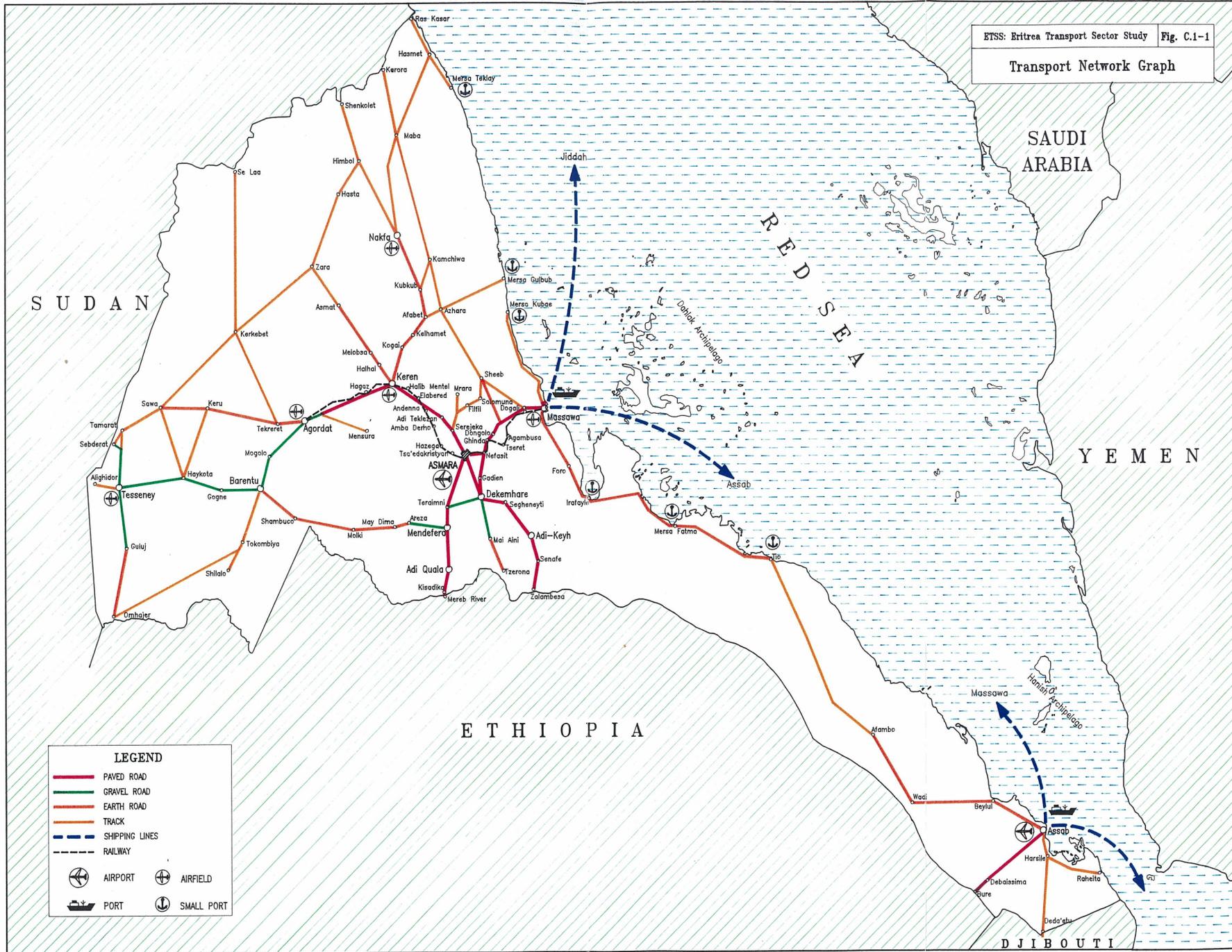


Eritrea's ideal strategic location straddling the Red Sea coast for more than 1400 kilometers,

Rich natural resources and generations of business/trading experience with Asia and Africa,

Innovative focused self effort of nation building and dignity by the government and people of Eritrea is slowly but surely enabling the country and its people to rise-up from the ashes of 60 years of ruins left by US and USSR

Transport Network Graph



LEGEND

- PAVED ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EARTH ROAD
- TRACK
- - - SHIPPING LINES
- - - RAILWAY
- AIRPORT
- AIRFIELD
- PORT
- SMALL PORT

• Many African countries used to export food during the 60th. Many African countries are importing food in 2010

• Eritrea continued to work focused for a comprehensive national food security program with a considerable achievements. Foreign food dependency was reduced by more than 90% and local production of cereals and fishery increased by 70%

• For the period of 1993 to 1977 Eritrea's economy grew by 7.4%. Inflation was kept at below 5%.

Eritrea achieved a 7 month reserve level for import during this period

• Eritrea as well as Ethiopia's economy moved into adjustments and sustainable development during this period

• Eritrea demobilized its army to further cut its military expenditure and boost its growth

• Unfortunately and to the dismay of all forces in the Horn of Africa who worked for peace, both in Eritrea and Ethiopia, who is no stranger to surrogates and realities of the Horn of Africa of the post Second World, once again, Eritrea was stubbed on the back, attacked and invaded by "Weyane" and its army from 1998 to 2000

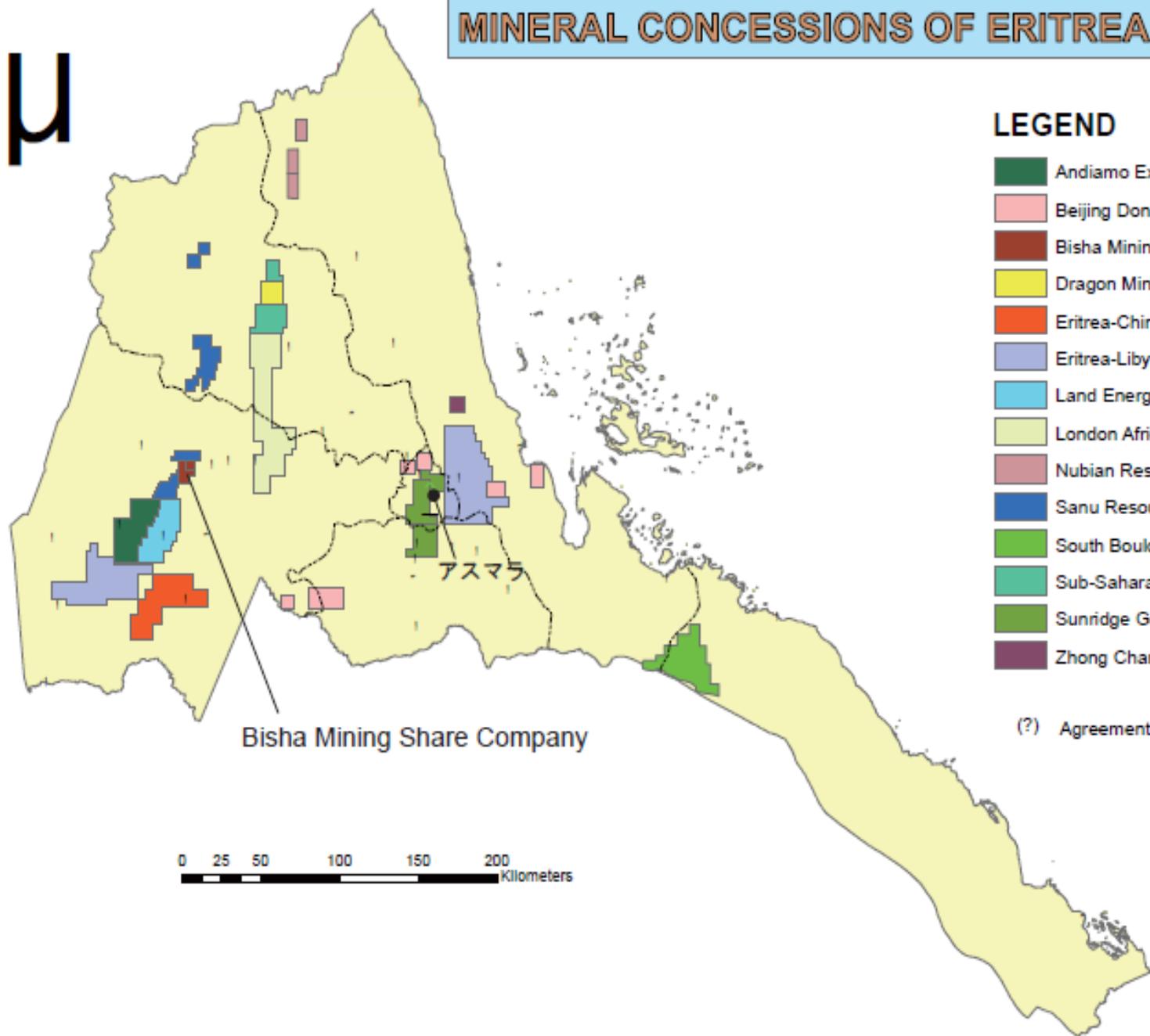
Positive prospects for FDI inflows to Eritrea driven by the pivotal price rise of global commodity in the last ten years.

More than 22 Trans National Corporations (TNCs) are currently engaged in the development of telecommunications, gas, oil and minerals, and

Manufacturing activities though small, but notable accomplishments, have been made in the re-birth of the traditional industries : agro, food, tannery, hides, textiles, garments, chemical etc. through local investments and FDI inflows into Eritrea in the past 17 years,

MINERAL CONCESSIONS OF ERITREA

μ



LEGEND

- Andiamo Exploration Limited (英)
- Beijing Donia Resources Co., Ltd. (中)
- Bisha Mining Share Company (加、エリトリア)
- Dragon Mining/Sub-Sahara (豪)
- Eritrea-China Exploration & Mining Sh. Co. (中、エリトリア)
- Eritrea-Libya Mining Sh. Co. (リビア、エリトリア)
- Land Energy Group China Co., Ltd. (?) (中)
- London Africa Limited (英)
- Nubian Resources PLC/Gippsland Limited (?)
- Sanu Resources Inc. (米、加) (豪)
- South Boulder Mines Ltd. (豪)
- Sub-Sahara Resources NL (豪、加)
- Sunridge Gold Corporation (加)
- Zhong Chang Mining Co., Ltd. (中)

(?) Agreement Signing Pending

0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

For the first time after the independence of Eritrea Bisha Mine is positioned to become the first modern day mine in the country in 2010 for the production of projected metals of:

1.06 Million Oz GOLD | 9.4 Million Oz SILVER | 734 Million Lb COPPER | 1,075 Million Lb ZINC

The Bisha Mine will be a low-cost gold producer for the first two years and a low-cost, high-grade copper and zinc producer for the remaining 10 year mine life

Winner of the 2009 Thomson Reuters PFI Award

"Africa Mining Deal of the Year" - Thomson Reuters

Sunridge Gold Corp. a junior company has successfully defined four independently estimated mineral deposits on the Asmara Project, Eritrea (Nippon Mining sites in late 60th and early 70th) Sunridge has three mineral deposits on the Asmara Project that together contain Indicated resources of 1.28 billion pounds (580,000 tonnes) of copper, 2.5 billion pounds (1,130,000 tonnes) of zinc, 1.05 million ounces of gold and 31.8 million ounces of silver. In addition the Gupo Gold deposit contains 189,000 ounces of gold in the Inferred category

Sunridge has entered into a strategic partnership to further expand Asmara Project with Antofagasta Minerals S.A.

(Marubeni has 30% stake in Antofagasta)

Hence, these kind of developments that I attempted to briefly mentioned here as an example and other mutual interests can only thrive in a safe, peaceful, secure, economically integrated and competitive neighborhood

People in the Horn of Africa deserve more than any time else in their past history peace, not war: be it covert or overt, because these heroic and proud people were subjected to generations of fighting against the inhuman history of slavery, colonialism and continued atrocities committed by superpower expansion into the African continent including the cold war period

What were the priorities of Eritrea in the last 17 years?

- Rehabilitation and reconstruction of national infrastructures
- Implementation of “Warsay - Yikalo Plan”
- Promoting and raising agricultural productivity
- Promotion of private investment
- Investment in education, health and nutrition
- Promotion of export
- Promotion of environment protection
- Mobilization of Eritrean community and resources for national development

What did Eritrea achieve and what are its current challenges?

■ Achievements

- Telecommunications (ICT)
- Infrastructure
- Industries
- Agriculture
- Mining
- Governance
- Education
- Health
- Services
- The dividend from Warsay Yekalo Plan is currently impacting the re-birth of the Eritrean economy significantly

■ Challenges:

- US position of "no-peace no war situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia"

What do we learn from the 124 years of nation building of Eritrea?

- Italian Colonialism and World War II and Eritrea
- US Military Bases in Eritrea (1941- 1976)
- The right of the Eritrean people to independence and their struggle
- US foreign policy and military support to Federation and Annexation of Eritrea with/to Ethiopia as a historic option from 1941 to 1976
- Subsequent dark days in Eritrea from 1941 to 1976
- USSR foreign policy and military support to “Regional Autonomy of Eritrea and Ogaden” under the confederation of Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti
- Subsequent savage war in Eritrea by USSR and its allies from 1977 to 1990
- Eritrea was declared independent peacefully through a UN sponsored referendum and through a ballot box in 1993
- Ethiopian Government declaration of war on Eritrea 1998 – Claiming Badme and its environs as its sovereign territories
- Ethiopia’s spiraling military incursions/invasions to Eritrea exacted a huge loss of life on both sides
- Eritrea Ethiopia Border Commission (EEBC) passed decision in April 2002 based on the final and binding Algiers Peace Agreement (signed by Eritrea and Ethiopia with international community support on December 2000) awarded Badme and its environs as sovereign territories to Eritrea
- Ethiopia refused to comply with EEBC decision supported by US and the British

■ **WHY?**

WHY?

- Italian colonialism did not walk into present Eritrea or present Ethiopia peacefully
- The Colonial Army (composed of Italians, Germans and Eritrean*) surrendered to the allied forces in Asmara, after resisting more than six months on April 1st 1941
- US Navy entered the Port of Massawa on April 11th 1941
- The British Army dismantled everything of value and shipped them to its colonies including corrugated iron sheets and nails, railway line and equipments from Bisha to Agordat, factories, dry docks, the longest ropeway in the world, scrap etc depriving thousands of Eritrean's their meager livelihood (Eritrea on the Eve by Sylvia Punkrust could be a good reading for you guys)
- The history of more than 100 thousand Eritrean soldiers who fought in North Africa and East Africa betrayed by the European wining or losing powers
- British and US military rule described by local folks as an administration of famine, massive displacement, unemployment and misery was imposed on the Eritrean people (1942 – 1952)

*"Askari" is a name given to the South African, Eritrean and Somali black soldiers who fought in North and North Africa on both warring sides of the Second World War epitomized by "General Romel"

Advances of Allied Forces into Eritrea 1945



- 1. British Expedition to Abyssinia 1868 From India
- 2. British Expedition to Ethiopia "Gedeon Force" May 1941 From Sudan

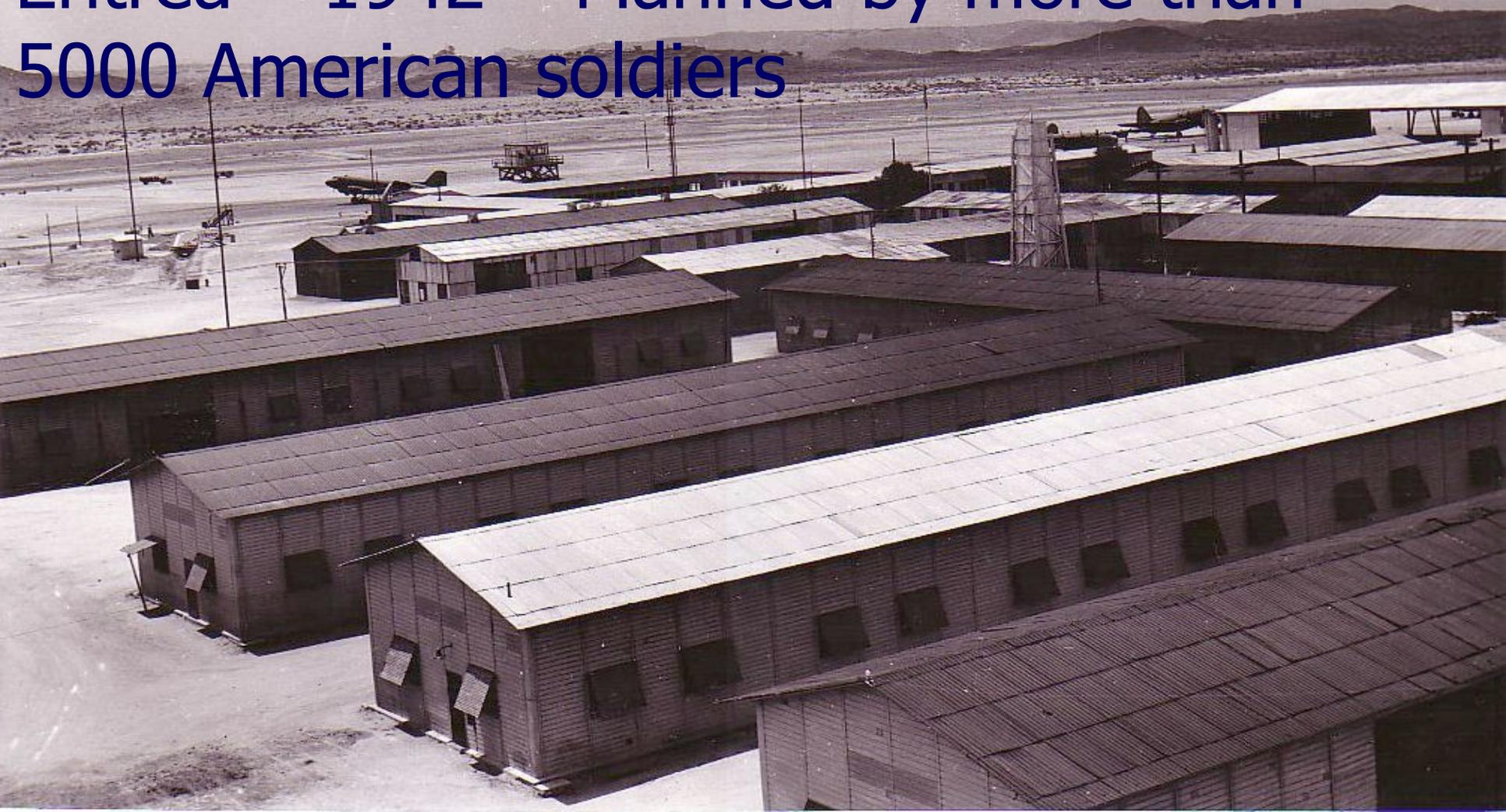
Eritrean workers repairing Gura Airport,
(Eritrea) in 1941 bombed by Royal Air
Force in World War II



Railway workers in Eritrea during 1949 strike

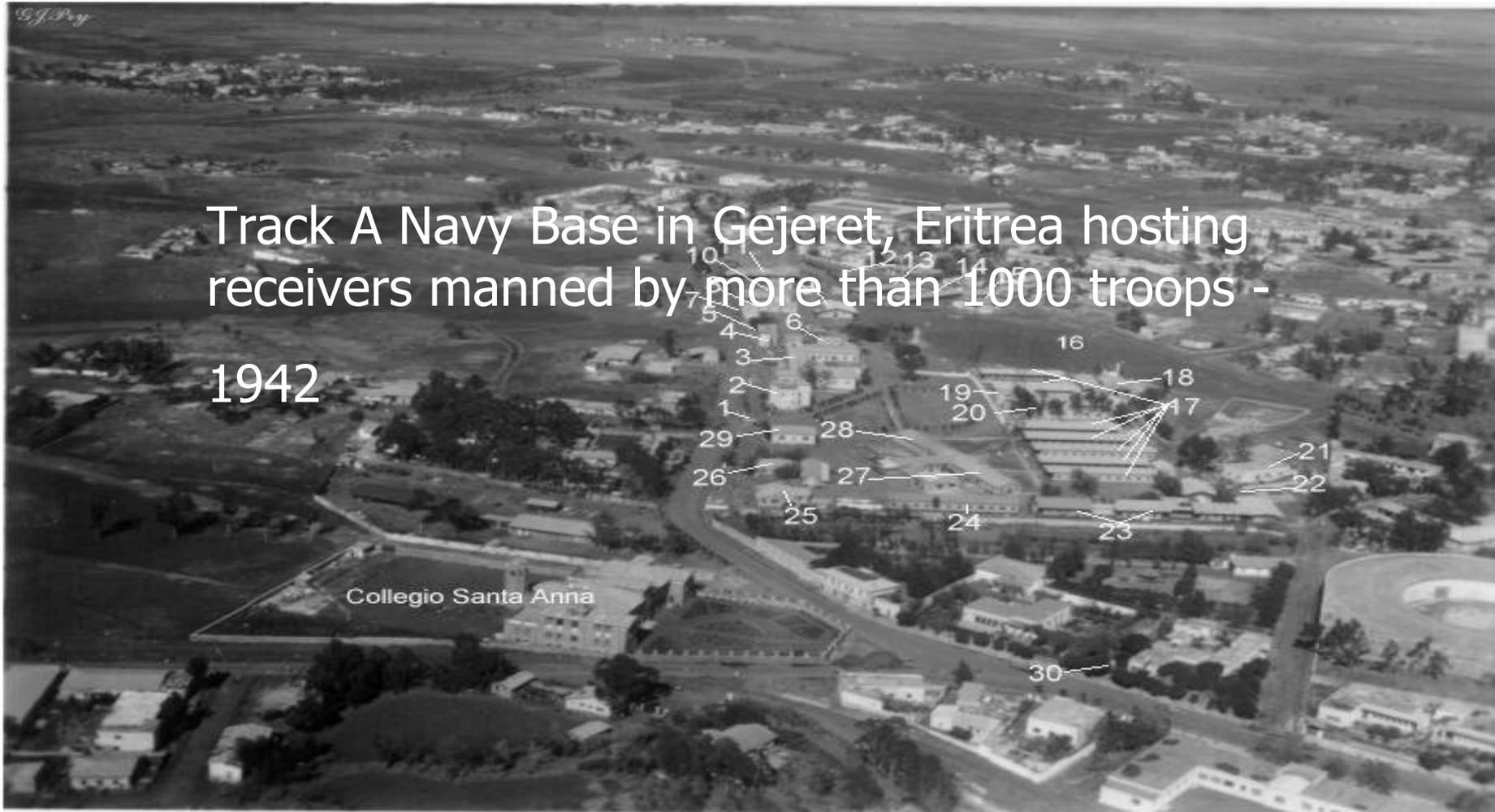


Secret Douglas military A/C assembly and maintenance base established in Gura, Eritrea – 1942 – Manned by more than 5000 American soldiers



Track A Navy Base in Gejeret, Eritrea hosting receivers manned by more than 1000 troops -

1942



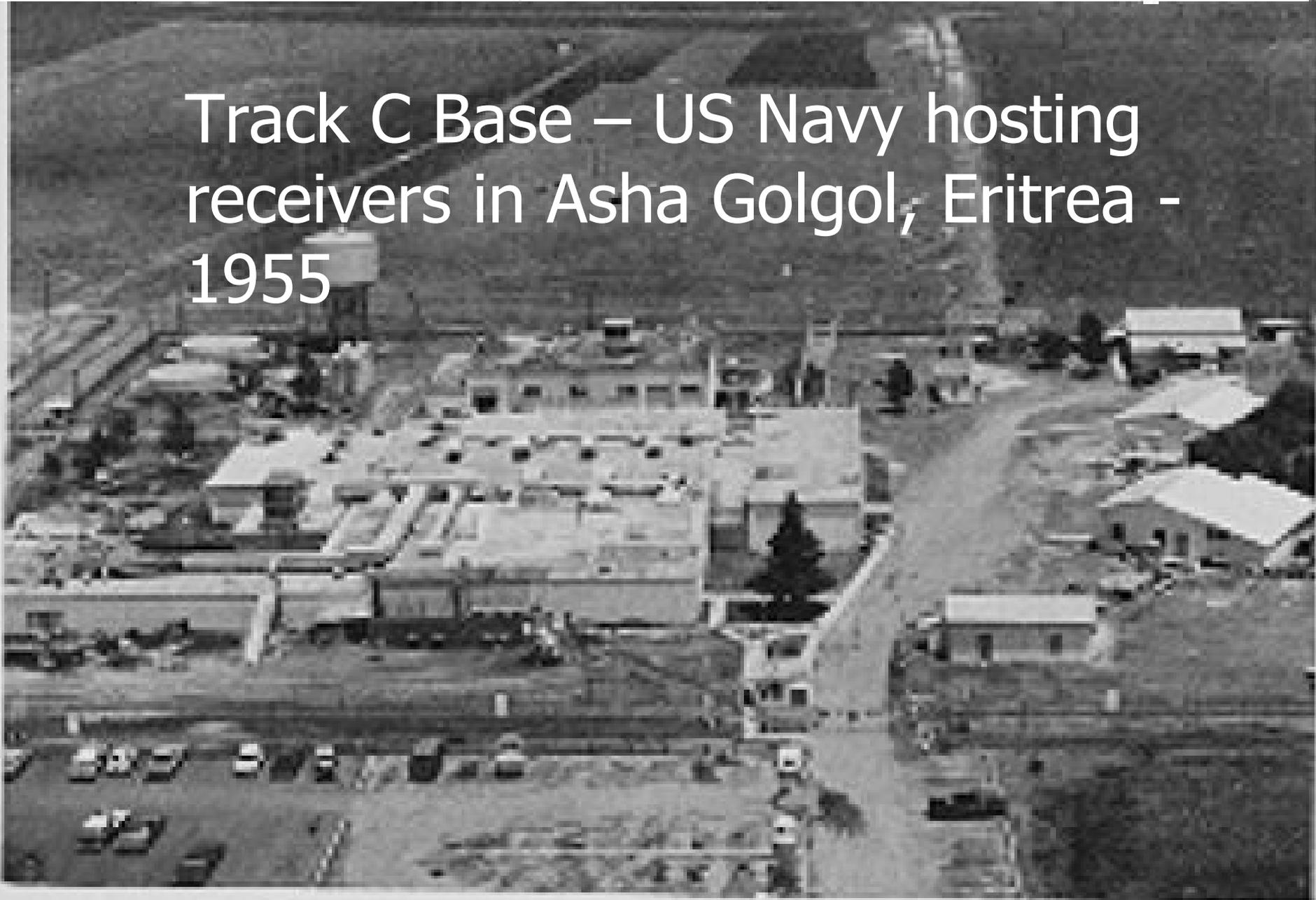
Arial View of USARS Sep 1951

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Main Gate | 11 Motor Pool | 21 Officers Club |
| 2 Hospital | 12 Sec Det Bks | 22 Transient Barracks |
| 3 Head Quarters Bldg | 13 Navy Barracks | 23 Officers Quarters |
| 4 Power Bldg | 14 9434 TSU Barracks | 24 Top 3 Graders Barracks |
| 5 Residence Co 9434 TSU | 15 Post Grammer School I | 25 Top 3 Graders Club |
| 6 Guardhouse | 16 Ball Field | 26 Doctors Home |
| 7 Post Utilities | 17 Operations Barracks | 27 Mess Hall |
| 8 Engineers Supply | 18 Library | 28 Bowling Alley |
| 9 Commissary | 19 Spec Services & Theater Bldg | 29 Dispensary |
| 10 Sec Det Supply | 20 PX & Snack Bar | 30 American Consulate |

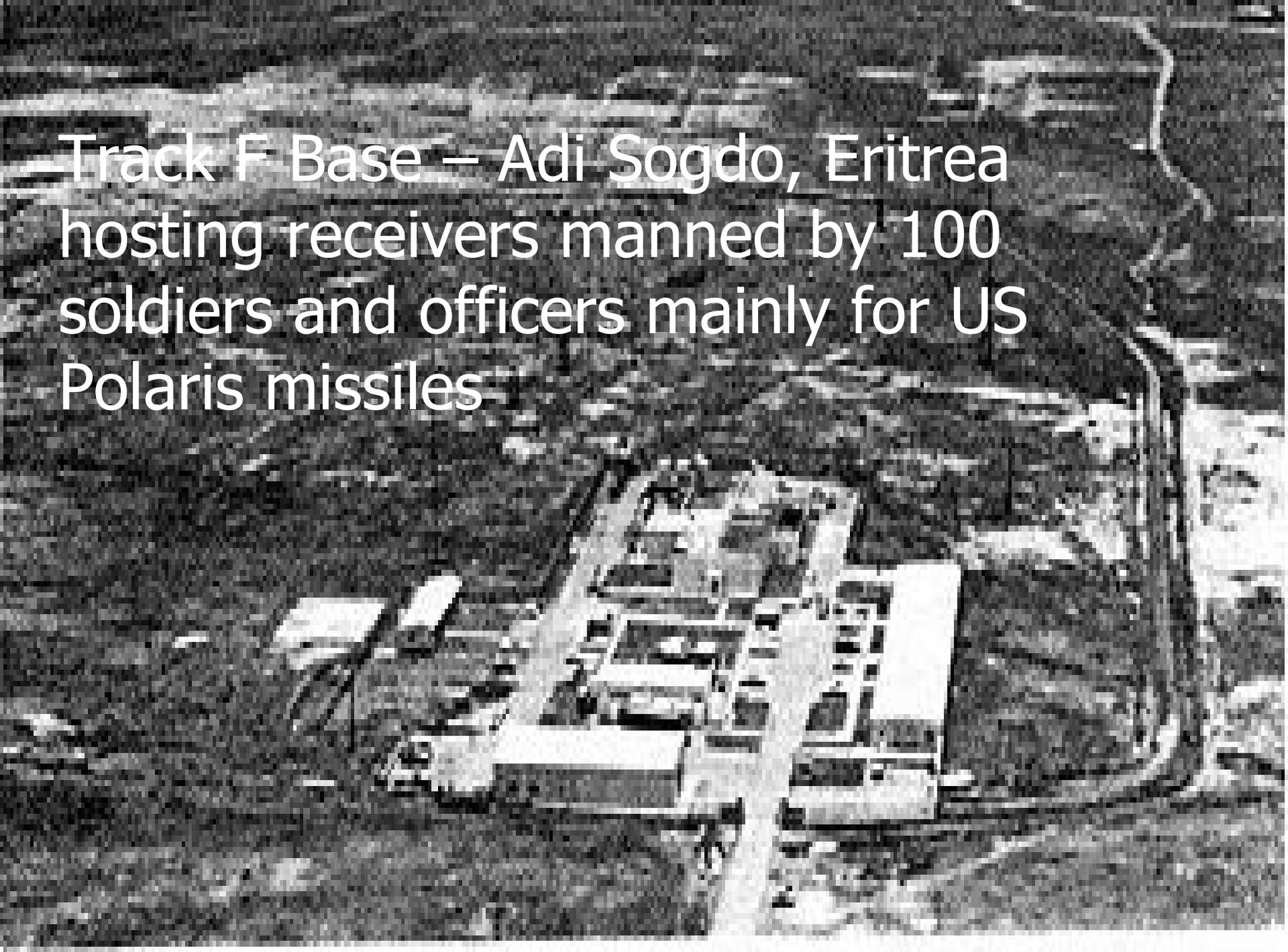
An aerial black and white photograph showing a large, organized military base. The base consists of numerous long, rectangular buildings arranged in a grid-like pattern. There are several large, open areas that appear to be training grounds or sports fields. The surrounding area is densely populated with smaller buildings and trees, indicating an urban or semi-urban setting. The overall impression is of a well-developed and secure military installation.

Track E Base in Bet Mikae, Eritrea manned
by more than 10000 troops - 1955

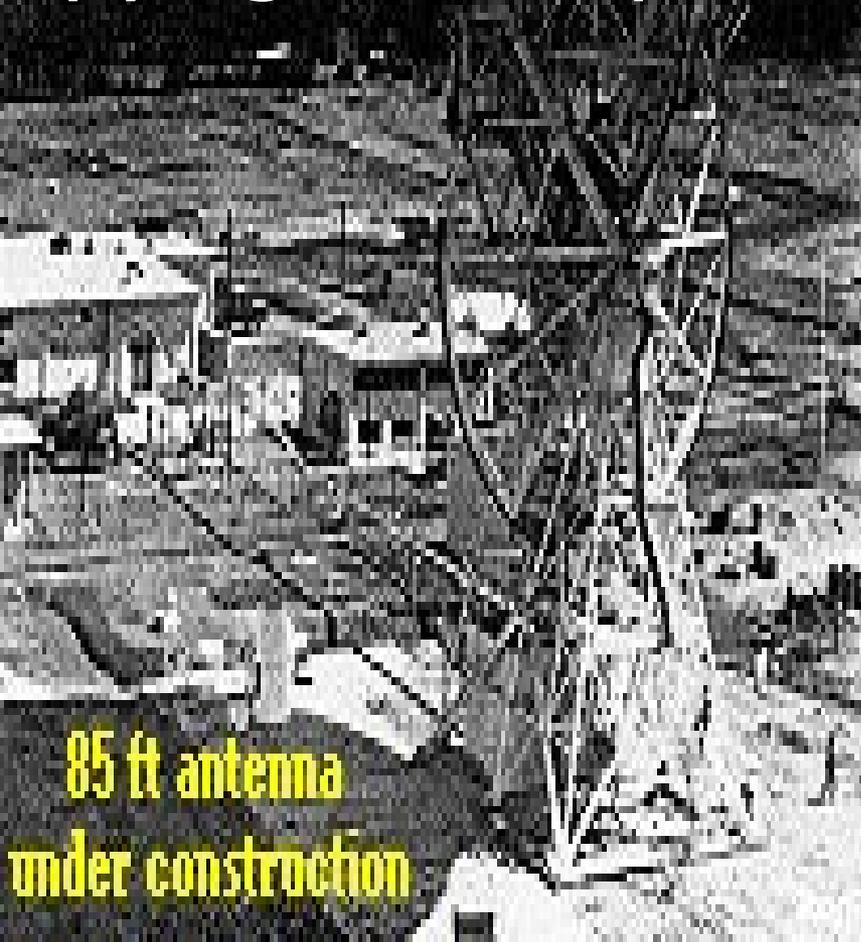
Track C Base – US Navy hosting
receivers in Asha Golgol, Eritrea -
1955



Track F Base – Adi Sogdo, Eritrea
hosting receivers manned by 100
soldiers and officers mainly for US
Polaris missiles



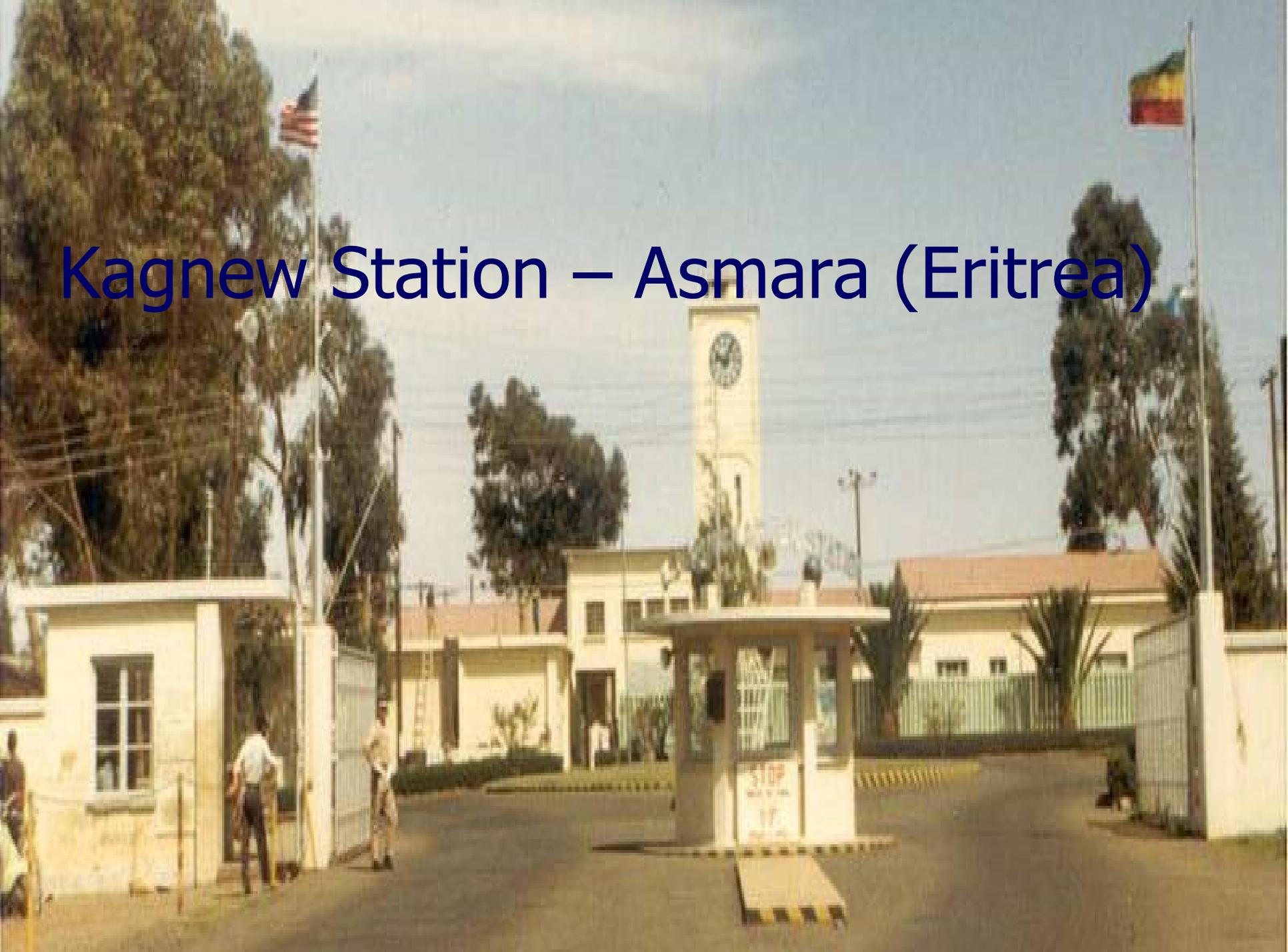
STRATSCOM Base – Adi Abeto (Eritrea)
manned by about 100 soldiers and officers
spying USSR space programs



85 ft antenna
under construction



Kagnew Station – Asmara (Eritrea)





Soviet Russia

- Injected in the Horn of Africa 20 Billion USD worth of armaments, more than 1800 soviet generals and officers accompanied by more than 2000 generals and officers from Bulgaria, Checkozlvakia, Hungary, East Germany and Poland, more than 3000 generals and officers from North Korea, More than 20,000 Cuban rank and file soldiers, officers and generals, more than 3,000 generals, officers and soldiers from Yemen and has also trained 1 million army from Ethiopia to crush the right of the people of Eritrea to self determination and independence and the right of the people in Ethiopia to self-rule and political democracy (1976 – 1990).
- Israel and Chile supplied cluster bombs and intelligence intermittently during this period
- Eritrea Island port of Nakura was turned into a secret landing port of nuclear submarines manned by more than 2000 Soviet soldiers (1977 – 1990)

What is on the ground currently threatening the stability of the Horn?

- **US decision to intervene for “humanitarian” consideration in Somalia in 1992**
- **US military policy applied in the region especially Bush’s administration policy anchored on “either you are with us or against us” is undermining regional political will for peace building in the region**
- **US hanged the implementation of the legal and binding Algeria–Peace Agreement entered by Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2000. Subsequently there is no peace and there is no war between the two countries for the last ten years.**
- **“Tigray group” (currently in power in Ethiopia) killed, suppressed and imprisoned opposition political leaders and their movement supporters with impunity and murdered election of Ethiopia in 2005**
- **“Tigray group” (currently in power in Ethiopia) has a strategy and intends to divide the country into Tigray, Amahara, Ogaden, Benshangul, Oromo etc. nation states and Eritrea's position is a united, sovereign Ethiopia,**
- **Western powers intend to divide Somalia into Juba Land, Punta land, Somaliland, Benadirland etc.**
- **Difficulties facing the Nevasha Comprehensive Peace Agreement of Sudan by the intervention of western powers and regional stakeholders which intend to divide Sudan into mini-states**
- **Ethiopian invasion of Somalia in coordination with the notorious Somali warlords and the US violated UN SC Resolution 1725 (2006).**
- **Ethiopia and Somalia have gone, in the past, into major wars: twice in 1964 and 1977 involving US and USSR crisscrossing roles**
- **Subsequently rule of law in the Somalia i.e. political and peaceful solution of Somalia crisis is threatened and is giving way to the rule of the jungle: humanitarian disasters, piracy, illegal trafficking of human, financial, material, illicit drug, arm and ammunition is spreading and engulfing Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Yemen and beyond and players are getting sophisticated and “dangerously playing with fire power” in the region daily**

New and Old Political Map of Ethiopia



What should NOT be the contribution of the “international community” in the Horn of Africa today?

US and its allies or any other growing military super power/s should desist the temptations of militarization, proxy wars and reviving the rules of military engagement in the region because current global economic crisis deserves a better option and recognition of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of current fifty three African countries.

What should be the contribution of Japan in the Horn of Africa today?

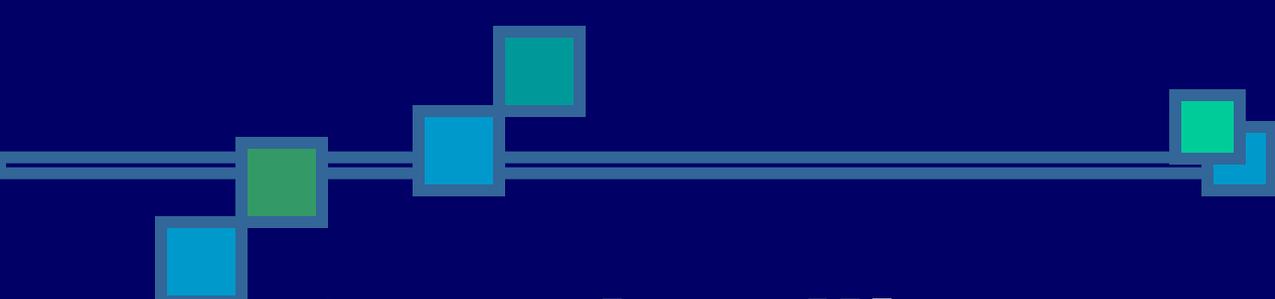
Discuss cooperation seriously in the imminent need to reform the UN,

to join efforts in maintaining stability and ensure prosperity since the region is a global trade corridor,

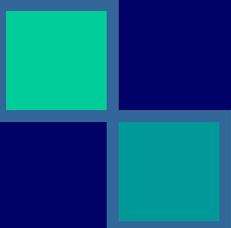
Encourage Japanese companies to invest and locate their business in this strategic part of Africa,

Encourage Japanese tourism to tie-up to the abundant and rich heritage sites which date back to human origin, clean coastal beaches, islands and rich biodiversity of the region, and

Encourage mutual efforts in science and technology education, resource and energy diplomacy to build a strategic partnerships (FDI) with countries of the region



Security dilemma

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- 1941 (90) days “Battle of Keren” and its aftermath
 - 69 years after this historic battle the US and UK need to understand the need to step back and reflect on the need on the continued security dilemma of the Horn of Africa and its people
 - 1945 (82) days
 - “Battle of Okinawa” and its aftermath
 - 65 years after this historic battle the US need to step back and reflect on the voices of the Okinawa people
- 

“exchanging local knowledge and technology”

“Japan – Eritrea Cycling Friendship” tooth care and its future



AFRICA

