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**OPENING OF THE SECOND DEMOBILISATION CENTER IN OTRACO,
GITEGA, ON FRIDAY 14 MAY 2004**

Following the decision by the Joint Ceasefire Commission (JCC) on its 07 January 2004 session, and the decision by the DRR Executive Secretariat of 08 April 2004, that designate Otraco in Gitega Province as the site for the second Demobilisation Center (DC2), the African Mission in Burundi is deploying the Ethiopian contingent of its Force to secure the site. The deployment is starting today, Friday 14 May 2004. This activity falls within the scope of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process. Indeed, one of the tasks assigned to the African Mission in Burundi is to “facilitate and provide technical assistance to the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration process”.

The Head of the African Mission in Burundi and Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Mamadou Bah, welcomes the opening of this second Demobilisation Centre which is a step forward in the peace process in Burundi.

The first Demobilisation Centre in Muyange, Bubanza Province, was opened, on a trial basis, on 06 June 2003. The South African contingent of the African Force is securing the centre.

As for the Mozambican contingent, it is responsible for escorting food convoys by GTZ to the ex-combatants in their cantonment site.

Bujumbura, 14 May 2004