

conservancy of the waters of our Lake Tsana for England and a concession for the construction of a railway through Abyssinia for Italy. The fact that you have come to an agreement, and the fact that you have thought it necessary to give us a joint notification of that agreement, make it clear that your intention is to exert pressure, and this, in our view, at once raises a previous question.

This question, which calls for preliminary examination, must therefore be laid before the League of Nations.

Given on the 8th day of Senié in the year of Grace 1918 (June 15th, 1926).

(Sealed) TAFARI MAKONNEN,
Heir to the Throne of Abyssinia.

II. REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO HIS IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HIGHNESS THE RAS TAFARI MAKONNEN, REGENT AND HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ABYSSINIA.

[*Translation*]

GENEVA, July 22nd, 1926.

In a letter dated the 12th day of Senié, 1918 (June 19th, 1926), Your Imperial and Royal Highness was good enough to send me a note accompanied by copies of the correspondence, together with translations into French, between the Imperial and Royal Government of Abyssinia and the Governments of the British Empire and Italy, with reference to an agreement stated to have been concluded recently between the two latter Powers.

Inasmuch as the object of Your Imperial and Royal Highness's letter was to bring the contents of these various documents to the knowledge of the States Members of the League of Nations, I have made all necessary arrangements to do so.

I have also forwarded your letter in a special despatch to the British and Italian Governments, as those directly concerned. Should they think it desirable to send me any observations on your letter, I shall in the same manner transmit them to Your Imperial and Royal Highness.

You further added in your letter that you hoped that the communication of these documents to the States Members of the League of Nations would enable the question at issue to be considered. As, however, Your Imperial and Royal Highness omitted to indicate in what form and by what procedure you would wish this consideration to be conducted, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether your request is to be interpreted as an application for the inclusion of the question in the agenda of an early session of the Council of the