

BOMBING OF OPEN TOWNS.

The Ethiopian Red Cross calls the attention of National Red Cross Societies to the following facts:

The Press Secretary of the Italian Embassy in London stated on October 4th, 1935:

"I can assure you that Mussolini gave express instructions to our armies that centres of civilian population were on no account to be bombed."

According to a message broadcast from Berlin on October 24th, 1935, Count Ciano, Minister of Propaganda, stated at Asmara that:

"The Italian army has always endeavoured to spare the civilian population and it is easy for Italian armies to recognise the Ethiopian fighting forces, which usually camp outside the inhabited areas."

The following passage is part of a telegram sent to the League of Nations by the Italian Government on December 15th, 1935:

"The Italian Government formally denies that any open town has ever been bombed by the Air Force in East Africa, since every action has always been directed solely against military columns and concentrations."

The Ethiopian Red Cross does not claim that the following list enumerates every instance of the bombing of open towns. Apart from such attacks, the Italian aircraft have flown everywhere, both over and behind the fronts, discharging explosive and incendiary bombs haphazard on peaceful peasant villages, massacring livestock by means of machine gun fire, even in provincial districts remote from all military operations or concentrations.