

I. BACKGROUND OF THE DISPUTE

No. 1

Review of Italo-Ethiopian Relations

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN, SET UP BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 26th, TO PREPARE A REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE 15 OF THE COVENANT — *i.e.* A REPORT SETTING FORTH THE FACTS OF THE DISPUTE AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS DEEMED JUST AND PROPER IN REGARD THERETO — SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL, OCTOBER 5, 1935.

League of Nations Document No. C 411 (1) M. 207 (1) 1935, VII

PART I

THE ITALO-ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE BEFORE THE COUNCIL

SECTION I

The Walwal Incident

1. It was at its meeting in January, 1935, that the Council, at the request of Ethiopia, first considered the tension in the relations between that country and Italy.

Ethiopian Request of December 14th, 1934

2. This tension was announced by a telegram from the Ethiopian Government to the Secretary-General, dated December 14th, 1934. Replying to the allegations contained in that telegram, the Italian Government, on December 16th, supplied the information in its possession, reserving the right to make further communications. Until the eve of the Council meeting, the two Governments continued to exchange explanations, both through diplomatic channels and through the intermediary of the Secretary-General. From the various documents communicated to them, the Members of the Council were able to make certain deductions as to the origins of the conflict.

3. It appeared that, from November 23rd, 1934, onwards, incidents had occurred in the Walwal area after the arrival in that area, which contained wells, of the Anglo-Ethiopian Joint Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between Ethiopia and British Somaliland. This Commission, which had instructions to make a survey of the grazing-grounds in the Ethiopian province of Ogaden, and which, from Ado onwards, was accompanied by a strong Ethiopian escort, had found Walwal occupied by an Italian native force. Following various incidents, the Commission had withdrawn on November 25th, without its escort. After its departure, an engagement took place on December 5th between the Italian and Ethiopian troops. Other incidents followed. Each of the two Governments protested to the other, holding it responsible.