

IV. The proposals of the Committee of Five are limited to offering the Abyssinian State, as it now is, an assistance which, though more extensive in certain aspects, does not differ in principle from the assistance that has been offered by the League to other States in temporary difficulties.

In the case of a country where conditions of barbarism are accompanied by a powerful modern armament, international supervision cannot be regarded as a solution answering to the aims that must be pursued both by the League, as a last effort to lift Ethiopia to a higher degree of civilisation, and by Italy, who sees in Ethiopia her special and most dangerous enemy.

V. A case like that of Ethiopia cannot be settled by the means provided by the Covenant, because the Covenant does not contemplate the case of countries which, though unworthy and incapable of participation in the League of Nations, continue to claim the rights and to demand the observance of the obligations that such participation involves.

Indeed, the representative of the Italian Government on the Council of the League foresaw on September 4th that the most laudable efforts made within the scope of the Covenant could not bring about a satisfactory solution, and that it was difficult to find a League solution for the Ethiopian problem.

VI. Had some latitude of judgment and elasticity of application been allowed for, even on the lines of such League principles as are embodied in the institution of mandates, the solution of the problem would have been brought nearer. The Committee of Five, however, has not followed this line and bases its solution on the idea of assistance, which is not adequate in Ethiopia's case.

It is true that this assistance also provides for the organisation of the police and gendarmerie services by the despatch of a mission of foreign specialists. But there have already been enough—indeed too many—of these specialists in Ethiopia. All they have done is to raise the armed forces of Ethiopia to a modern degree of efficiency and, consequently, to make Ethiopia more dangerous to her neighbours and particularly to Italy.

This is the more serious since, in the proposals of the Committee of Five, the organisation of the army is left quite free of control.

The fact that the Committee's plan leaves the army entirely in the hands of the Government, although control is imposed on that Government in a number of questions of lesser importance, shows that the plan has not been based on practical criteria, taking realities into account.

VII. The Italian reasons based on treaties, historical facts, the defence of the Italian colonies and Italy's mission in Africa have been completely ignored in the Committee's proposals.

The Committee of Five has not borne in mind the peculiar situation of Italy in Ethiopia in consequence of the Tripartite Treaty of 1906 and the previous agreements which form an integral part thereof.