

To the Italian Minister
for Foreign Affairs,
ROME.

(Translation)

LONDON, March 23rd, 1936.

Your Excellency,

On taking cognisance, this morning, of the communications received from the Italian and Ethiopian Governments, the Committee of Thirteen observed that several of those communications contained charges alleging the violation of international undertakings intended to ensure respect for the wounded, the dead, and prisoners, or the regular operation and safety of Red Cross ambulances, or the prohibition of the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or similar gases in warfare.

In connection with violations of the Geneva Conventions concluded under the auspices of the Red Cross, the Committee noted that, when, on January 16th, your Government alleged abuses of the Red Cross emblem and various atrocities, it intimated that they were being "reported to the International Committee of the Red Cross for necessary action." The provision of the aforesaid Geneva Conventions would seem to apply likewise to the bombing of Red Cross ambulances, which the Ethiopian Government has reported, and concerning which your Government has already sent observations to the Secretary-General for communication to the Members of the League of Nations.

The Committee on the other hand felt bound to call your Government's attention to the Ethiopian Government's allegations that the Italian Army has been using methods of warfare prohibited by the Protocol of June 17th, 1925, to which the Italian and Ethiopian Governments are parties.

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee would be happy to receive any observations your Government might wish to make in regard to the Ethiopian Government's allegations of the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, or similar gases by the Italian Army.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) S. de MADARIAGA,
Chairman of the Committee of Thirteen.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, 4, volume 165, pages C117603-C118550)

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