

Must the Ethiopian Government renounce the hope of obtaining from the League of Nations the assistance to which it is entitled under the terms of the Covenant? Will the barbarous activities of the aggressor meet with no other obstacle than a platonic invitation to the two belligerents to accept negotiations for the termination of hostilities? Will dilatory procedures follow one another as if Ethiopian blood were not flowing like water, as if the Rome Government had not daily announced through the press under its inspiration its unshakable determination to seize Ethiopia? Does there remain the least doubt in the minds of any Member of the League of Nations as to the true intentions of the aggressor Government?

III. The moral confusion created throughout the world by the practical impunity of the Italian aggression is beginning to produce its terrible consequences.

Small States are now asking themselves what protection is afforded them by the collective security promised in the Covenant. Some of them, who are also victims of a breach of treaties, fear an aggression in the near future; they are consulting together to guard against the peril, should the selfish interests of a few Powers deprive them of the security which the League of Nations was to give them.

The Great Powers are now experiencing the effects of the spirit of aggression. They are appealing to the League of Nations and to the collective security which is its essential purpose. They assert that peace is indivisible. But can there be any collective security if all the States Members neglect or refuse their support? Does collective security consist only in making platonic protests against the aggressor, and in addressing words of compassion to its victim?

Such is the problem which is now before the Committee of Thirteen, the Committee of Eighteen, the Council and the Assembly. The war of conquest undertaken by Italy has imperilled the peace of the world. The Ethiopian Government expresses the hope that the League of Nations will not remain unmoved before the destruction of the Ethiopian people, and that it will not postpone any longer the effective assistance which is due to any State Member victim of an unjustified aggression. Ethiopia's independence is not alone at stake.

I have the honour to be,

etc.,

(Signed) WOLDE MARIAM

Minister of Ethiopia.