

## APPENDIX 2

## SUMMARY OF THE ORAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE DELEGATE OF ITALY

*[Translation.]*

September 22nd, 1935.

I. The Committee of Five has not taken into consideration the specific charges brought by the Italian Government against Ethiopia to the effect that the latter has not fulfilled the obligations which she assumed at the time of her joining the League. Nor has it considered whether Ethiopia is still worthy to belong to the League, when she has not fulfilled those obligations and has openly violated others.

The Committee of Five has not paid sufficient attention to the fact that Ethiopia was admitted to the League on certain special and specified conditions, and that she may be regarded as no longer possessing the status of a Member of the League, inasmuch as she no longer fulfils the conditions to which her membership was indissolubly linked.

II. The memorandum submitted by the Italian Government, after denying, for the reasons given above, Ethiopia's right to discuss matters on a footing of equality with the other Members of the League, calls the Council's attention to the true state of what is described as the Ethiopian Empire and to its internal conditions, which are very different from those that should be required for a State's membership of the League.

The Italian Government's memorandum demonstrated the existence of an essential distinction between the countries of the ancient Amhara stock (central plateau) and the outlying areas conquered by Abyssinia in the last fifty years. Through the misgovernment of their rulers, who exploit them without scruple and use them as sources of supply for the slave-trade, those areas have been reduced to a condition which demands immediate and far-reaching intervention for their rescue; the writ of the Negus does not run there.

III. The Italian memorandum, taken as a whole, shows that, if it was to be satisfactorily solved, the Ethiopian problem ought to have been put in the following form:

(1) The Abyssinian State, properly so called, should be placed in such a position that it can do no injury to its neighbours, and its administration should be reformed so as to raise the country to a higher level of civilisation;

(2) The different peoples which are subject to the tyranny of Abyssinia and live on the frontiers of the country under inhuman conditions should be rescued therefrom.

Those peoples must be safeguarded once for all from the misgovernment of a country which is not, and never will be, able to discharge in respect of them the mission incumbent upon a State that contains peoples of different races.