

19. According to the preliminary observations submitted on September 14th by the Ethiopian delegation, it would be necessary to subject to a searching and impartial enquiry the facts invoked by the Italian Government and the accompanying explanations and commentaries. The events which have taken place while this report was being drafted by the Committee make it impossible for the Council now to consider the possibility of such an enquiry. The Council is, however, in a position to establish a certain number of points in connection with the complaints of the Italian Government.

20. As regards the insecurity of the frontiers of Ethiopia, the Council can refer to the evidence of the two other European Powers which, like Italy, possess territories contiguous with Ethiopia. On the frontiers of these territories, there have also occurred raids and incidents affecting the interests of these Powers. They have settled these incidents by diplomatic methods. They have taken account of the fact that, in the present condition of Ethiopia and Ethiopian administration, the almost total absence of communications and the great difficulty of ensuring the application by the subordinate provincial authorities of the policy of the Central Government at Addis Ababa had prevented the Emperor, in spite of his sincerest intentions, from carrying out the necessary reforms by his own unaided efforts. These incidents and raids along the frontiers of Ethiopia were not in the nature of an aggression sought for or encouraged by the Central Government.

Of the three Governments of the contiguous Powers, none has at any time laid any of these incidents before the Council.

As regards the non-observance of the obligations assumed by Ethiopia when she entered the League of Nations, the reports of the competent organs of the League on the subject of slavery show that comparatively little real progress has been made in the direction of its abolition, although the Emperor has done all that lay in his power.

With reference to the arms traffic, Ethiopia, as mentioned above, concluded in 1930 a treaty with France, the United Kingdom and Italy. Although the application of that treaty has given rise to complaints on the part of those three Powers, there is no reason to believe that the Ethiopian Government deliberately or systematically violated its essential provisions.

As to the internal state of Ethiopia, the Governments which, in 1923, supported Ethiopia's request for admission to the League were aware of the internal situation of the Empire at that time. The Minutes of the Sixth Committee of the Assembly show that those Governments considered that the entry of Ethiopia into the League would not only afford her a further guarantee for the maintenance of her territorial integrity and independence, but would help her to reach a higher level of civilisation. There does not appear to be more disorder and insecurity in Ethiopia to-day than was the case in 1923. On the contrary, the country is better organised and the central authority is better obeyed.