

The communication from the representatives of France and the United Kingdom conveying the bases prepared at Paris for the friendly settlement of the Ethiopian conflict is worded as follows:—

“Since the failure of the efforts undertaken by the League of Nations to find a peaceful solution to the Italo-Ethiopian conflict, the desire has been expressed on several occasions, both in the Council and the Assembly, to see the conflict brought to an end by an agreed settlement as soon as possible.

“The Governments of the United Kingdom and France have worked out together, bearing in mind the deliberations of the Committee of Five, the bases of a settlement of this nature, and instructed their representatives at Rome and Addis Ababa on December 10th to lay before the Italian and Ethiopian Governments certain suggestions in this sense.

“We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of this document, which we should be glad if you would communicate to the Members of the Council. We shall not fail to transmit to you, in the same way, the replies of the interested Governments as soon as they have been received.”

The two Governments therefore inform us that they will communicate to us the replies of Ethiopia and Italy as soon as they are received. The Council has not yet received the text of these replies.

It has, however, received, as I have said, a letter from the Ethiopian representative that has been distributed as document C.483.M.259.-1935.VII.

At the end of this letter, the Ethiopian Government asked that the Assembly should be convened immediately. As the Council had already been convened for to-day in order to take cognisance of the Franco-British suggestions, the President of the Assembly has considered it preferable to await the outcome of your discussions before deciding what effect should be given to the request of the Ethiopian representative.

We have also just received document C.491.M.265.1935.VII, containing a declaration by the Ethiopian Government. When handing in this declaration to the Secretary-General, the Ethiopian delegation stated that it was not to be regarded as Ethiopia's reply to the Franco-British suggestions. That reply will be sent later.

I will first call upon the representatives of France and the United Kingdom for any explanations they may desire to make concerning the bases for a friendly settlement which they have communicated to the Governments of Rome and of Addis Ababa.

Mr. EDEN: Last November, as my colleagues will recall, when the Co-ordination Committee agreed upon certain sanctions which are now in force, it also envisaged efforts to find a basis of settlement. The Committee approved attempts to find a basis of discussion between the two parties