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LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League.

C.156.M.94.1936.VII.

Geneva, April 12th, 1936.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

Translation from Italian.

Rome, April 12th, 1936.

To the Secretary-General.

In its note to you dated the 10th instant the Ethiopian delegation mentioned inter alia a so-called Polish doctor BELAU, found by the Italian troops on the Amba Aradam, stating that that person is alleged to have been compelled by the Italians, under threat of death, to sign a false declaration regarding the bombing of the Dessié hospital in December 1935. It is true that in February last the so-called Dr. Belau made, and spontaneously handed to the Italian doctors treating him at the Massawah hospital, not one but two declarations (one extending to three pages) written entirely in his own hand and signed by him, in which he affirms inter alia that the contents of the declaration, also signed by him, which was transmitted to you by the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs in his telegram of December 7th, 1935, is false; that he signed the document without reading it, being compelled to do so by Dr. Zervos in presence of the Emperor; and that consequently he regards the document in question as counteracting the other. Despite the nature of these affirmations, the Italian Government refrained from bringing them to your notice, as in the meantime it had received from Warsaw an extremely bad account of the person in question. In 1922 the so-called Dr. Belau deserted from the Polish Army, in which he held the rank of sergeant, and went to Russia. His name is not Belau but Maximilian Stanislas Beloff. He obtained by fraud a temporary passport from the Polish Legation at Teheran. He holds no document authorising him to practise medicine. He has wandered about in Persia, India, Siam and Afghanistan, engaged in obscure and doubtful activities and wanted by the police of various countries. That is the person who was engaged as a doctor by the Ethiopian Red Cross; he is doubly a deserter, - from the Polish Army in 1922 and from the Abyssinian Medical Organisation in 1936. At Massawah he spontaneously disavowed a declaration he had signed at Dessié, and to-day in Switzerland he disavows the disavowal he made at Massawah. For your information I am transmitting under separate cover a photograph of the declarations made at Massawah by the so-called Dr. Belau, and I beg you to communicate the present telegram to the States Members of the League of Nations.

SUVICH.

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

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