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of that reply was to prevent the oil sanction. The Ethiopian Government is convinced that the Committee of Thirteen, the Committee of Eighteen and the Council will not permit the aggressor to distort the sense of the loyal appeal of the Committee of Thirteen, and will not let themselves be deceived by a manoeuvre designed to defer the application of sanctions. It is the strict duty of all the Members of the League to prevent the aggressor from prosecuting his enterprise.

For these reasons, the Ethiopian Government respectfully reminds the League that during the past fifteen months it has been urgently appealing for League intervention, and that no effective action has as yet been taken in response to Ethiopia's demands; although it has been repeatedly stated that if sanctions were to be effective they must be powerful and immediate.

IV. To justify its appeal, the Ethiopian Government need do no more than reproduce the admirable statement made by the representative of France to the Council on March 14th, 1936:

"It is a matter of the interests of general peace, and I might even say of the existence of the League of Nations itself. We ought to know whether the practice of the fait accompli, the unilateral repudiation of undertakings freely and solemnly accepted, is going to be set up ... as a political system; whether treaties are going to be considered as at any moment and immediately capable of being modified at the will of their signatories; whether any Government can in the exercise of its own power annul to-day that to which it subscribed yesterday. I ask whether such a method can be reconciled with the existence of the League of Nations, which the Covenant states is formed in order to promote international co-operation and achieve international peace and security; to do that it is necessary to observe strictly all the undertakings of international law, recognised as the actual rule of conduct among Governments, together with the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations. Would such a method be compatible with the very notion of collective security, an expression which is empty of meaning if it does not express a confidence which each of those associated together has in the undertakings given by the others - the conviction that all those associated together will contribute to defending each of them against a violation by any other State of its undertakings? Is that of a nature to encourage a conclusion of further international agreements?"

V. At their sessions in October 1935, the Council and the Assembly unanimously declared the Italian Government guilty of an unjustified aggression upon Ethiopia. They recognised that it was the imperative duty of the Members of the League to take all appropriate steps in opposition to the repudiation of engagements affecting the security of peoples and the maintenance of peace. If, having recognised that necessity six months ago, the Council and the Committee of Eighteen should now, when faced by yet more serious facts, reverse their own decision, it is to be feared that the authority of the League in the minds of the general public would suffer an irreparable blow.

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