

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League.

C.147.M.86.1936.VII.

Geneva, April 7th, 1936.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

Paris, April 6th, 1936.

(Translation)

To the Secretary-General.

I am directed by my Government to request Your Excellency to communicate the following declaration to the Committee of Thirteen, the Council, the Committee of Eighteen, and all the Members of the League of Nations.

1. At the moment when the Committee of Thirteen is meeting to consider the situation now existing after its appeal to the belligerents, the Ethiopian Government addresses a supreme appeal to all the organs and all the Members of the League of Nations.

For the past fifteen months the League has had under its consideration a conflict deliberately sought by the Italian Government, and one which, it can now no longer be denied, has the character of a long-premeditated aggression.

At the beginning of 1935, the Rome Government, counting upon the indifference, or even support of certain Powers with which it had lately concluded agreements for the settlement of European questions, thought that it could succeed in bringing Ethiopia under its domination, if not with the formal consent of the League of Nations, at all events without arousing any opposition other than an academic protest. It multiplied its diplomatic manoeuvres, conducted a costly press campaign throughout the world, and raised incidents of procedure so as to make the utmost use of the influence of its friends, in order to gain the necessary time to complete its military preparations and also to discourage the Ethiopian Government from trusting as it did in the Covenant of the League.

To a great extent these tactics were crowned with success. Ethiopia's urgent and repeated appeals to the League, and the denunciation of the Italian Government's warlike preparations, did not prevent the Rome Government from securing by manoeuvres and threats the postponement of such effective decisions as might have prevented the aggression. In vain did the Ethiopian Government agree to every sacrifice, all the Council's suggestions, all the procedures of the Covenant, while the Italian Government received every proposal for pacific settlement with a contemptuous refusal. At the beginning of October 1935, emboldened by these initial successes, it felt that the time was ripe to fling aside the