

Since then, in reply to the Imperial Government's protests, the two Powers have endeavoured to allay its apprehensions by emphasising their friendly intentions. The British Government has even communicated to the Imperial Government the statement made by Sir Austen Chamberlain on this subject in the House of Commons. Sir Austen solemnly declared that the two Powers did not intend "to divide the country economically," that their agreement "could have no binding effect upon the Abyssinian Government," and that it was not intended to be, and could not be, used "for the purpose of coercing the Abyssinian Government"; and he added that "the Abyssinian Government had a perfect right to judge what was in the interest of Abyssinia."

The Italian Government has also made similar declarations to us.

Further, the British Government announced that the two Powers intended to deposit the notes exchanged between them with the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and the Imperial Government has been informed that these notes have already been registered.

In view of the fact that registration as required by Article 18 of the Covenant is merely designed to give publicity, the Imperial Government does not feel justified in complaining of the carrying out of this formality. At the same time, remembering that in signing the Covenant it agreed to "the prescription of open, just and honourable relations between nations," the Imperial Government feels entitled and bound to request you to register and publish the present letter, together with the notes in question, in order that the public may be acquainted with the Imperial Government's views on these notes and with the reassuring replies which have been made to its protests.

All the Members of the League of Nations will then know beyond doubt that, far from having given any undertaking whatever in this matter to the two Powers concerned, the Imperial Government retains, as the British and Italian Governments themselves have stated, full and complete freedom to decide as to any requests which may be made to it, and has a perfect right to judge what is in the interest of Abyssinia.

Given in the city of Addis Ababa, this 30th day of Nahasié, 1918 (September 4th, 1926).

(Sealed) TAFARI MAKONNEN.

---

## VI. REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO HIS IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HIGHNESS RAS TAFARI MAKONNEN.

[Translation]

GENEVA, October 8th, 1926.

In a letter dated the 30th Nahasié, 1918 (September 4th, 1926), accompanied by a translation into French, Your Imperial and Royal Highness informed me that Your Highness desired that letter to be registered and published together with the notes exchanged between the British and Italian Governments on December 14th and 20th, 1925.