

16. On September 28th, the Emperor of Ethiopia sent a further telegram to the President of the Council. While asserting that Ethiopia would continue to collaborate with the Council for a pacific settlement in accordance with the Covenant, the Emperor drew the Council's most serious attention to the increasing gravity "of the threat of Italian aggression," owing to the continual "despatch of reinforcements and other preparations, despite our pacific attitude." He added that he earnestly begged the Council "to take as soon as possible all precautions against Italian aggression, since the circumstances had become such that we should fail in our duty if we delayed any longer the general mobilisation necessary to ensure the defence of our country." The contemplated mobilisation would not, he said, affect his previous orders to keep "his troops at a distance from the frontier," and he confirmed his "resolution to co-operate closely with the League of Nations in all circumstances."

17. On October 2nd, the Emperor of Ethiopia informed the Council that Italian troops had violated the Ethiopian frontier in the region south of Mount Mussa Alli, near the frontier of French Somaliland. This region being near the sea and easy of access, the Emperor considered that the Council could obtain confirmation of this violation by sending observers or through the Government of French Somaliland.

On October 3rd, the Italian Government replied that no military movement of Italian detachments had taken place in this region, where as a matter of fact the frontier had not yet been delimited.

18. On October 3rd, the Italian Government informed the Council that the warlike and aggressive spirit in Ethiopia had succeeded in imposing war against Italy and had found its latest and complete expression in the order for general mobilisation announced by the Emperor on September 28th. That order, stated the Italian Government, represented a direct and immediate threat to the Italian troops with the aggravating circumstance of the creation of a neutral zone which, in reality, was only a strategic movement intended to facilitate the assembly and the aggressive preparation of the Ethiopian troops. As a result of the order for general mobilisation, the continual and sanguinary aggression to which Italy had been subjected in the last ten years manifestly involved grave and immediate dangers against which it was essential for elementary reasons of security to take action without delay. Confronted by this situation, the Italian Government found itself obliged to authorise the High Command in Eritrea to take the necessary measures of defence.

19. On October 3rd, the Ethiopian Government informed the Council that Italian military aeroplanes had, that day, bombarded Adowa and Adigrat and that a battle was taking place in the province of Agamè. It added that these facts, occurring in Ethiopian territory, involved a violation of the frontiers of the Empire and a breach of the Covenant by Italian aggression.