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II. Probable Attitude of League Powers.

It may be assumed (1) that the United Kingdom will not act contrary to the views of France, and (2) that what the United Kingdom and France agree upon, whether for or against further sanctions, is likely to be accepted by the majority of the members of the Committee, who will be influenced by the same considerations, as well as by the direct example of the two powers mainly concerned in the Mediterranean situation. It may also be assumed that the question will not in fact be decided by mere reference to "the obligations of the Covenant", or of Article XVI, which no state is in fact enforcing or has suggested should be enforced in full, but on grounds of expediency, weighing of pros and cons as to how the interest of the League or the interest of peace or the interest of the country itself will be affected.

Among the pro-sanctions considerations affecting public and government opinion in the United Kingdom and France may be noted:

(a) On the part of the average man, particularly in the United Kingdom:

Dislike of being bluffed by a mountebank like Mussolini.

(b) Labour and Socialist parties, both United Kingdom and France:

Hostility against Fascism, particularly by Socialists, who consider that Fascism everywhere must be overthrown, if necessary by force; many would like to see the Italian regime licked, even if it were right in a particular dispute, and so doubly welcome the opportunity of lining up the League against it on a high moral issue.

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