

tural areas where Europeans might be numerous. Furthermore, the Governments of France and the United Kingdom had intimated that they were prepared to facilitate, by common sacrifices, territorial adjustments between Italy and Ethiopia. They also agreed to recognise a special Italian interest in the economic development of Ethiopia.

12. These suggestions of the Committee of Five were accepted by Ethiopia as a basis for negotiation, but were rejected by Italy.

Meeting of the Council, September 26th. Preparation of the Report in virtue of Article 15, paragraph 4, of the Covenant

13. At its meeting on September 26th, the Council was obliged to recognise that the efforts of the Committee of Five had failed. It entrusted to a Committee consisting of all its members except the representatives of the Parties the drafting of the present report with a view to the application of Article 15, paragraph 4, of the Covenant. Since, however, conciliation is always possible until the Council has adopted the report, the Committee of Five remained in being for the purpose of judging, should any suggestions be made to it, whether they might justify a further attempt at conciliation.

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14. After the failure of the attempt at conciliation by the Committee of Five, the Council received a telegram from the Emperor of Ethiopia, dated September 25th, which said that "several months ago we gave orders to our troops along our frontiers to withdraw 30 kilometres from the frontier and to remain there to avoid any incidents that might serve the Italians as a pretext for aggression. The orders have been carried out in full. We remind you of our previous request for the despatch of impartial observers to establish the facts in regard to any aggression or other incident that might occur in order to fix the responsibility therefor. We further ask that the Council should take any other precautions it may think advisable."

To this telegram, the Committee of Thirteen appointed by the Council on September 26th replied that, considering with the most careful attention the request for the despatch of impartial observers, it was examining whether the actual circumstances would permit them to discharge their mission.

15. At the Council's meeting on September 28th, the President said that he felt that the telegram from the Emperor of Ethiopia should be officially communicated to the Italian representative for any observations he might think fit to make. It was so communicated on the same day, in the form of a letter from the President of the Council to the Italian representative. No reply has yet been received.