

THE DEPARTMENT OF
C117887
L-150
6/4(a)

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League.

C.160.M.98.1936.VII.
Geneva, April 14th, 1936.

DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ITALY.

Communication from the Italian Government.

Rome, April 14th, 1936.

To the Secretary-General,

(Translation
from the Italian)

In a letter dated March 2nd last¹⁾ the Italian Government already had occasion to inform the League of Nations of decree No.7373 issued by the High Commissioner for East Africa, on October 14th, 1935, formally proclaiming the abolition of slavery in the territories of Tigre which, in circumstances that are well known, Italy has found it necessary to occupy. The same letter also gave notice of an edict to the same effect issued by his Excellency the Governor of Somaliland for the Ethiopian territories adjacent to Italian Somaliland and occupied in the same circumstances by Italy. In this connection, and further to the said communication, I have the honour to inform you that on April 12th His Excellency Marshal Badoglio promulgated at Makalle the following edict: "Peoples of the Tigre, Amhara and Godjam, listen: slavery is a relic of ancient barbarism, and there can be no slavery where the Italian flag flies. Accordingly, in Tigre, Amhara and Godjam, wherever the Italian flag flies, slavery is abolished. I have prohibited the purchase and sale of slaves. The slaves who are in your territories are freed. Let those who need help apply to the Italian authorities: they will receive help and protection. Anyone disobeying the provisions of the present decree will be punished in accordance with law."

I would ask you to be good enough to communicate the present telegram to all the Members of the League of Nations, the members of the Committee of Thirteen and the members of the Slavery Commission.

SUVICH.

1) This letter has been transmitted to the Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery convened for April 15th.

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