

sation of a class in Italy" and "the continual despatch of troops and war material" to the Italian colonies in East Africa, obliged the Ethiopian Government to demand "full investigation and consideration as provided in Article 15 (of the Covenant), pending the arbitration contemplated by the Treaty of 1928 and the Geneva Agreement of January 19th, 1935."

15. The Italian Government denied that a class had been mobilised, and explained that the despatch of troops was dictated by the necessity of providing for the safety of its colonies. It had been obliged, it said, to take certain preparatory defensive action on account both of the military measures taken on a very much larger scale by Ethiopia, and of the abnormal situation still existing on the frontiers, as demonstrated by repeated incidents, even on other frontiers than those of the Italian colonies. It objected to the application of Article 15 of the Covenant, on the ground that the exchange of notes of January 19th, 1935, had provided for the application of the procedure under the Treaty of 1928. Although, for its part, it did not consider direct negotiations to be at an end, and was still awaiting a reply from Ethiopia to its suggestion that the Italian and Ethiopian documentation regarding the aggression at Walwal should be compared, the Italian Government stated that it was prepared, if the phase of direct negotiations closed without an agreement being reached, and if the Ethiopian Government did the same, to take steps forthwith with a view to the constitution of the Commission provided for in the Treaty of 1928.

*Extraordinary Session of the Council, April 15th, 1935*

16. When the Council met in extraordinary session on April 15th, it had to decide whether, as an exceptional measure, the question of the Italo-Ethiopian dispute should be added to the limited agenda of that session, or whether it should remain on the agenda of the ordinary session the following month. The Ethiopian Government, in its recent communications, had called attention to a situation which was, it urged, increasing in gravity. In support of its request for immediate consideration, it referred to a Press report to the effect that several thousand Egyptian labourers were to be sent to Eritrea. These labourers were required for work which, according to the Ethiopian Government, formed part of Italy's military preparations.

17. During the discussion that took place in the Council on April 15th, the representative of Italy said that his Government, while it considered the continuance of direct negotiations desirable, had informed the Ethiopian Government that it was prepared to embark on the procedure of conciliation and arbitration and to make the necessary arrangements with that Government as to the methods by which the procedure should be carried out. The Ethiopian request, being designed to bring before the Council a dispute which was submitted to a procedure of arbitration agreed upon between the parties, was contrary to the terms of Article 15 of the Covenant.