

IV. Yet the Ethiopian Government has read the numerous declarations of principle made on various occasions by the great Powers in order to explain to the world the aims of the League, the provisions of the Covenant, and the significance of collective security.

To mention only the most recent of these declarations, the Ethiopian Government would refer to the draft resolution submitted to the Council of the League on March 20th, 1936, which says:

- "(1) Scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations is a fundamental principle of international life and an essential condition of the maintenance of peace;
- "(2) It is an essential principle of the law of nations that no Power can liberate itself from the engagements of a treaty nor modify the stipulations thereof except with the consent of the other Contracting Parties."

In his magnificent speech on March 20th, 1936, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs proclaimed certain principles to which the Ethiopian Government has been continually appealing before the League of Nations for the past fifteen months: "Peace is indivisible". "This indivisible peace must be founded upon a better organisation of collective security within the framework of the League of Nations." "Immediate and compulsory mutual assistance in the case of unprovoked aggression is the surest preventive of war". "Peace depends upon the strict observance of treaties." "To increase the collective forces placed at the service of law and international justice, to decrease the forces that might be used for any given imperialistic aims - that is our object."

These principles have been proclaimed by the great Powers, and are the small countries to appeal to them in vain?

V. In the terrible trial through which it is passing, the Ethiopian Government feels justified in making an earnest appeal to each of the organs of the League, and to every one of its Members, to apply these principles to the Italian aggressor, and to enforce against him the sanctions designed to ensure their observance in accordance with the Covenant.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Government asks:-

- (1) That it should be given financial assistance to enable it to resist the aggressor on less unequal terms;
- (2) That all the obstacles and hindrances which certain States Members are still placing in the way of the transport of arms to the Ethiopian troops should be removed;
- (3) That the sanctions compulsorily required by Article 16 of the Covenant should be reinforced and completed;
- (4) That urgent representations should be made to the Rome Government in order that the laws of war and the international conventions should be respected and that systematic destruction and the extermination of innocent populations should be made to cease.

Is it too much to ask that all the Members of the League and all the Geneva organisations should recollect their fundamental duty - to ensure the triumph of right over might?

I have the honour, etc.
(Signed) WOLDE MARIAM,
Ethiopian Minister in Paris.