

fundamental principle of the Covenant is that a State cannot be admitted to membership of the League—and consequently cannot continue to be a Member—if it does not fulfil—or ceases to fulfil—certain fundamental conditions; it must have a stable Government, an effective political and administrative organisation, and well-defined frontiers.” Italy could no longer count upon the clauses of the Treaty of Friendship of 1928 itself, nor could she rely upon purely legal guarantees, to fulfil the duty incumbent upon her of removing once and for all the threat of danger to her own colonies. Since the question affected vital interests and was of primary importance to Italian security and civilisation, the Italian Government would be failing in its most elementary duty did it not cease once and for all to place any confidence in Ethiopia, reserving full liberty to adopt any measures that might become necessary to ensure the safety of its colonies and to safeguard its own interests.

8. The representative of Ethiopia said that he had heard “with great surprise the indictment of Ethiopia by the Italian representative.” While stating that the Ethiopian Government desired at once “to protest most strongly against the charges brought against it,” he called the Council’s attention “to one capital point”: “The question is whether, in a few days, a war of extermination will be opened.”

*Meeting of September 5th—Fresh Ethiopian Request for the application of Article 15 of the Covenant*

9. At the meeting of September 5th, the representative of Ethiopia asked the Council to take the decisions necessary to fulfil “its mission under Article 15, paragraph 3.”

*Appointment and Proceedings of the Committee of Five*

10. On September 6th, the Council decided to appoint a Committee to make a general examination of Italo-Ethiopian relations and to seek for a pacific settlement. This Committee, consisting of five Members of the Council—Spain (Chairman), the United Kingdom, France, Poland, and Turkey—made suggestions to the two parties on September 18th.

11. These suggestions took into account the facts which constituted a situation for which it was necessary to find a remedy, and also the request for assistance under the auspices of the League which was put forward by the delegate of Ethiopia at the plenary meeting of the Assembly held on September 11th. International assistance to Ethiopia seemed to offer a solution which would be acceptable to both parties; the independence and territorial integrity of Ethiopia would be respected; Italy would have the possibility of resuming, in security, relations with Ethiopia based on good understanding and confident collaboration.

In the plan which it had suggested, the Committee had endeavoured to secure greater tranquillity, not merely throughout Ethiopia, but more particularly in the frontier territories of the Empire, and in the agricul-