

(1) The Italian Government seems to have done nothing to follow up the acceptance of principle which it gave in response to the Committee of Thirteen's appeal and to the request made to it by the Chairman of that Committee on March 23rd. It would therefore appear that the sole object of the acceptance of principle was to postpone the operation of the oil sanction which was decided upon in principle by the Committee of Eighteen several months ago and was about to be applied.

(2) The Italian Government is demonstrating by its words and its actions that it has no intention of ceasing hostilities and finally restoring peace within the framework of the League and in the spirit of the Covenant. Since the Council's appeal, the Italian Government has redoubled its barbarity in waging its war of aggression against the Ethiopian people, not merely availing itself of the crushing superiority of its war material, but employing instruments of war and methods which are formally prohibited by the laws of war and by the international treaties signed by Italy. Against a people which, to defend its independence, has only a small number of arms, acquired with difficulty owing to its financial troubles and to obstacles which are on occasion placed in the way of their transport to Ethiopia, the Italian Government is carrying on a pitiless war with the object of exterminating the population. Being unable to crush the vigour and courage of the Ethiopian warriors, the Government at Rome is systematically killing women, old men, and children, destroying towns, villages, churches, and convents, and bombing hospitals and ambulances. The awful destruction of Harrar is but a single incident in this terrible war. These practices recall the carnage of ages which it was thought had gone never to return.

In vain has the Ethiopian Government protested, giving the most circumstantial evidence of these atrocities. In particular, on March 7th, 1936, the Ethiopian Government sent a detailed memorandum to the President of the Red Cross, giving full particulars of the massacres and the violations of the laws of war committed by the Italian Government; it refuted, point by point, the charges brought by the Rome Government in justification of these atrocities. Nor have the protests of foreign Governments had any better success. The Italian resolve to exterminate has been quite lately demonstrated by the annihilation of the town of Harrar by bombs.

In these circumstances, the Ethiopian Government again urgently appeals to the League of Nations. Will the States Members, who unanimously condemned the aggressor, and who, in October 1935, declared themselves resolved to stop the aggression by all appropriate sanctions, remain indifferent to this destruction of the Ethiopian people when it is their imperative duty under the Covenant to come to its aid?

The Ethiopian people is weak. Is that weakness a sufficient reason for the League of Nations to refuse it the assistance provided for by the Covenant? All the States Members have solemnly undertaken to resist the aggressor. Ethiopia now appeals to that undertaking. She feels the utmost bitterness when she finds not merely that financial assistance has not yet been given to her, and that Article 16 of the Covenant has not been strictly enforced, but that the Italian Government has succeeded in securing a postponement of the oil sanction decided upon five months ago, and even hopes to obtain the abolition of all sanctions by bargaining.

Is that the spirit of the Covenant?