

In such circumstances, is it consistent with the Covenant that the Covenant-breaking State should be begged, by the League of Nations, to be good enough to accept a large part of its victim's territory, together with the effective control of the rest under the cloak of the League?

Is the victim of the aggression, who has always scrupulously conformed to all the procedures of the Treaties and of the Covenant—as the Assembly has unanimously acknowledged—to be invited by the League to submit to the aggressor and, in the interests of world peace, to abandon the defence of his independence and integrity against his powerful enemy, on the ground that the latter's resolve to exterminate its victim is unshakable? Is the victim to be placed under the implicit threat of abandonment by the League and to be deprived of all hope of succour? Should not this problem, which is vital to the future of international relations between all peoples, whatever their strength, their colour, or their race, be laid first of all before the League, and examined publicly there, in complete independence, under the eyes of the whole world?

It has never occurred to the Ethiopian Government to contest the Council's jurisdiction or to entertain the slightest suspicion of its motives. The Ethiopian Government gratefully recalls the unanimous vote by which the Council proclaimed its unqualified adherence to the provisions of the Covenant and condemned the aggression. The Ethiopian Government takes this opportunity to express once more its profound gratitude for the reassurance it derived from this unanimous decision, which carried with it the invaluable support of almost all the States Members.

In respectfully submitting to the Council its opinion on this question, the Ethiopian Government's object is first and foremost to inform the States represented on the Council before they make known their views; secondly, to inform the Assembly, which, by suspending its proceedings without closing its session, has clearly expressed its intention of watching the progress of events and exercising its lawful right of supervision over the application of the provisions of the Covenant.

The Ethiopian Government does not think that it is wrongly interpreting the reply made to its request by the President of the Assembly—namely, that in his view the outcome of the Council's deliberations must be awaited before any decision is taken on Ethiopia's request. Does not that reply reserve the Assembly's rights?

The Ethiopian Government respectfully presents these observations to the Council. It expressly declares that it in no sense regards them as constituting a reply or a plea of incompetence. It counts upon the wisdom of the Council to adopt such solutions as may seem to it most prudent, in order to safeguard the rights of all the States Members.

The Ethiopian Government reserves its right, if necessary, to submit in due course further observations on the substance of the proposals that have been laid before it.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the statements that have been made. Since the final attitudes of the Italian and Ethiopian Governments are not