

recurrence of incidents likely to do serious harm to Red Cross work, you mentioned that you would like to obtain such information as he thought he could supply you with on the point and as would reassure in particular the national societies concerned. We do not feel certain, however, that the particulars given in the above-mentioned letters from the Head of the Italian Government and the President of the Italian Red Cross are likely, in view of their vague and indefinite character, to reassure the national societies whose ambulances have suffered from Italian air attacks.

After stating that the airmen "make a point of respecting the Red Cross emblem" the Head of the Italian Government remarks that, at the same time, Red Cross units are often unintentionally involved in military operations, and he adds, to quote his own words: "No one deplores such a possibility more than the Italian Government. It will do its best to see that it does not recur". The Ethiopian Red Cross would point out that, actually, the Italian Government is merely promising to prevent accidental bombing but not to stop intentional bombing.

Passing over the few observations suggested by a perusal of this letter, let us examine the letter from the President of the Italian Red Cross.

He begins by saying, to use his own words, that he wishes to send the International Committee a note summarising and explaining incidents which have recently occurred in connection with the dispute between Italy and Abyssinia. Yet it would be useless to look, in his letter, for the summary, explanations or information which are to be regarded as a reply to the very definite inquiry made by you. It must accordingly be concluded that certain definite undeniable facts have made it impossible for the Italian Government to offer any justification. In point of fact the President has not supplied the statement of facts which we would have been entitled to expect. To sum up, his arguments are based on the following allegations:

1. That the Ethiopians do not understand the meaning of the Red Cross.
2. That the Ethiopian Red Cross is non-existent
- and 3. that Red Cross units by their very nature run the risk of bombing from the air.

The argument that Ethiopians do not know the meaning of the Red Cross is so weak and illogical that the Ethiopian Red Cross need not reply to it at length. It will be sufficient to compare two passages which stand side by side in the Italian memorandum and which are mutually exclusive. After referring to the alleged use of the Red Cross emblem on brothels, it is claimed that, during air bombardments, certain Ethiopian troops took shelter under the Red Cross emblem. If this were true, though the Ethiopian Red Cross formally denies it, it would be precisely a proof of the Ethiopian troops' understanding of the immunity conferred by that emblem.

Referring to the alleged protest made by the French Consul at Harrar against abuses of the Red Cross emblem on the part of Dedjazmatch Nasibu, we are astonished that the Italian Red Cross, with the approval of the Head of its Government,