

On September 23, the Ethiopian delegation informed the Chairman of the Committee "that it is willing to open negotiations immediately on the basis of the suggestions and communications contained in the note submitted to it on behalf of the Committee of Five."

The text of the letter from the Ethiopian delegation is attached to the present report (Appendix 3).

APPENDIX I

TEXT OF THE NOTE HANDED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO THE ETHIOPIAN AND ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1935

(Translation)

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1. The Committee, which was instructed "to make a general examination of Italo-Ethiopian relations and to seek a pacific settlement," has endeavoured to find a basis of negotiation. In doing so, it has been guided:—

- (i) by the obligation of respecting the independence, territorial integrity and security of all States Members of the League;
- (ii) by the necessity of ensuring good neighbourly relations between the States Members of the League.

The Committee expressed no opinion on the documents furnished by the two Parties and confined itself to the facts of a situation which needs to be remedied.

2. On admission to the League, Ethiopia assumed special obligations regarding certain matters—in particular, slavery and the traffic in arms. She declared herself "ready to furnish the Council with any information which it may require, and to take into consideration any recommendations which the Council may make with regard to the fulfilment of these obligations, in which she recognises that the League of Nations is concerned."

3. In his speech at the plenary meeting of the Assembly, on September 11th, 1935, the first delegate of Ethiopia spoke as follows:—

"Any suggestion calculated to raise the economic, financial and political level of the nation to which I have the honour to belong, provided it proceeds from the League of Nations and is to be carried out in the actual spirit of the Covenant, will be regarded by Ethiopia as the action of sister nations which have reached a more advanced stage of civilisation and are sincerely desirous of guiding my country in the path of progress. Any proposal of that kind will be welcomed. I am convinced that my country will examine it with the greatest goodwill and with real gratitude."