

3. According to the statement made by the United Kingdom representative at the Council meeting on September 4th, the negotiations between the three Powers began at Paris on August 16th, after two days of informal exchanges of views.

The Italian delegate brought forward a certain number of complaints against Ethiopia, and then laid emphasis upon the special interests of his country. In particular, he asked that the predominance of the political and economic interests of Italy in Ethiopia should be recognised. The United Kingdom and French delegates, basing themselves upon those parts of the Italian case which seemed to them capable of being used, then drew up a programme which might serve as a basis of discussion. These suggestions were only of an exploratory nature and were not intended in any degree to commit the Governments concerned.

4. A summary of the Franco-British suggestions submitted to the Council by the United Kingdom representative, in agreement with the French representative, is attached (see Number 2). These suggestions essentially consisted in a plan of collective assistance to Ethiopia to help her, under the auspices of the League of Nations, to carry out certain reforms. Ethiopia was to accept this plan of her own free will. Assistance would have been afforded by the three limitrophe Powers, but this would not have prevented particular account being taken of the special interests of Italy, without prejudice to the recognised rights of France and the United Kingdom.

5. The suggestions laid before it by the United Kingdom and French Governments having been rejected by the Italian Government, the Paris conversations were adjourned on August 18th.

*Council Session, September, 1935*

6. When the Council met on September 4th, it found that, although the unanimous award of the arbitrators had settled the Walwal incident and subsequent incidents, the settlement had not restored calm. The tripartite negotiations at Paris had proved unsuccessful, and the tension between Ethiopia and Italy had grown still more serious.

*Meeting of September, 4th—Presentation of the Italian Government's Memorandum.*

7. At the meeting of the Council on September 4th, the representative of the Italian Government presented a detailed memorandum on the situation in Ethiopia, and stated formally that "Italy's dignity as a civilised nation would be deeply wounded were she to continue a discussion in the League on a footing of equality with Ethiopia." Italy refused to recognise equality, which was a privilege conferred on Members of the League, to a State which had shown no desire to fulfil its obligations. "There is a close correlation between all the clauses of the League's charter. The justification and counterpart of the guarantees it lays down are to be found in the obligations it imposes; rights involve duties." "The