

Communicated to the  
Council and Members  
of the League.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

C.121.M.70.1936.VII.  
Geneva, April 2nd, 1936.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

Paris, April 1st, 1936.

To the Secretary-General

I am directed by my Government to request you to communicate the following declaration to the Committee of Thirteen, the Council, the Committee of Eighteen, and all the Members of the League of Nations.

I. At its meeting on March 23rd, 1936, in London, the Committee of Thirteen, acting under the terms of reference given to it by the Council, took note of the replies of the two parties to the conflict to the appeal which it had made to them on March 3rd. It requested "its Chairman, assisted by the Secretary-General, to get into touch with the two parties and to take such steps as may be called for in order that the Committee may be able, as soon as possible, to bring the two parties together, and, within the framework of the League of Nations and in the spirit of the Covenant, to bring about a prompt cessation of hostilities and the final restoration of peace."

The Ethiopian Government had already, in an earlier telegram <sup>1)</sup> and its declaration of March 23rd, 1936, <sup>2)</sup> accepted the Council's appeal in the terms in which it was issued; it had urgently called the attention of the Committee of Thirteen to the essential characteristic of the future negotiations, namely, that they should be conducted within the framework of the League and in the spirit of the Covenant.

The Ethiopian Government has observed with the keenest satisfaction that the Committee of Thirteen, in its decision of March 23rd, 1936, <sup>3)</sup> was careful to emphasise the manner in which the Chairman, assisted by the Secretary-General was to perform the duty entrusted to him "within the framework of the League of Nations and in the spirit of the Covenant."

II. In the course of his conversation with the Chairman of the Committee of Thirteen on March 24th, 1936, the Ethiopian delegate explained his Government's attitude. (1) He confirmed the declaration of March 21st, which contained the essential facts; (2) he placed himself entirely at the Chairman's disposal; (3) he insisted that the Italian Government must give an assurance that it intends to negotiate within the framework of the League and in the spirit of the Covenant.

III. It is the Ethiopian Government's painful duty to inform the Committee of Thirteen and the Council that the Italian Government's attitude surpasses its worst expectations.

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- 1) See document C.106.M.47.1936.VII.  
2) " " C.142.M.81.1936.VII.  
3) " " C.144.M.82.1936.VII.

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
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