

mittee, in the plan which it suggested (Appendix 1), endeavoured to secure greater tranquillity, not merely throughout Ethiopia, where the bearing of arms would be strictly regulated by a more efficient police force, but more particularly in the frontier territories of the Empire, in order to safeguard the neighbouring territories against incursions, especially those whose object is the slave traffic, looting or smuggling. Special measures were also contemplated for the security of agricultural areas where Europeans might be numerous and where the local administration might not be sufficiently developed to provide them with adequate protection. The safety of foreign residents was also to be enhanced by the reorganisation of the mixed courts which try cases between foreigners and Ethiopians.

Ethiopia was at the same time to enjoy effective assistance for the purpose of expediting the modernisation—to which her Emperor attaches great importance—of her administration and institutions.

The Committee's note containing the broad outlines of the proposed scheme of assistance was accompanied by certain information furnished by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom. The Governments of those two countries were prepared to facilitate, by common sacrifices, territorial adjustments between Italy and Ethiopia. They also agreed to recognise a special Italian interest in the economic development of Ethiopia. This declaration on the part of the other two neighbouring Powers was made in order to afford to Italy a further assurance that her desire to contribute to the economic development of Ethiopia would receive the highest possible degree of satisfaction.

On September 18, the Chairman of the Committee communicated to the representatives of Ethiopia and Italy the bases of the scheme of assistance and the information furnished by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom. (Appendix 1).

On September 22, the delegate of Italy informed the Chairman of the Committee that the Italian Government's decision on the suggestions submitted to it was contained in the *communiqué* published on the conclusion of the meeting of the Italian Cabinet on the previous day.

This *communiqué* stated that "the Council of Ministers had taken note of the proposals contained in the report of the Five. It had examined them carefully. The Council of Ministers, while appreciating the attempt made by the Five, had decided to consider these proposals as unacceptable, inasmuch as they did not offer a minimum basis sufficient for conclusive realisations which would finally and effectively take into account the rights and the vital interests of Italy."

The delegate of Italy, in a conversation with the Chairman of the Committee of Five, set forth orally certain observations which explained the attitude taken by the Italian Government in regard to the Committee's suggestions.

A summary—approved by the delegate of Italy—of these observations is attached to the present report (Appendix 2).