

Covenant to which they have tried to make their conduct conform. In the present instance, they do not consider that those obligations admit of any other construction than that placed upon them by the Assembly of the League and accepted by Canada "as a free and sovereign nation", and they naturally hope that the Government of Italy may yet see their way to view their obligations under the Covenant in the same light.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ERNEST LAPOINTE,  
*Acting Secretary of State for  
External Affairs.*

### No. 19

#### Statement given to the Press by the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, December 2nd, 1935

The general position of Canada in relation to the conflict between Italy and Ethiopia and in relation to the action which is being taken by the League of Nations in respect thereto has already been stated in a communication given to the Press by the Prime Minister of Canada on the 29th October of this year.

In the meetings of the Council and Assembly of the League in the early part of October, the Member States joined almost unanimously in accepting the conclusion that Italy had resorted to war in violation of its obligations under Article 12 of the Covenant and were considered thereby to have accepted the obligation of applying against Italy sanctions as provided under Article 16 of the Covenant. Canada under the direction of the previous Administration had participated in that action. A Co-ordinating Committee of the Council and Assembly submitted to the Governments of the League five specific proposals (1) prohibition of the export of arms and munitions to Italy; (2) prohibition of loans and credits to Italy; (3) prohibition of all imports from Italy; (4) prohibition of export to Italy of certain key-commodities useful for military operations; (5) provision for mutual assistance in contingencies arising out of the application of economic sanctions.

The Government's position was then stated in the following terms:

(Statement here quotes text of statement of Secretary of State for External Affairs, October 29, 1935, set forth above).

Since that date the Government on the 31st October put into force an embargo on the export of arms and munitions to Italy and on the same date devised voluntary measures to ensure the prohibition of loans and credits. On the 15th November by an Order-in-Council coming into operation on the 18th an embargo was placed on all imports from Italy, the provisions