

The time has come for all the organs of the League of Nations to assume their responsibilities.

V. The principles of which the Ethiopian Government respects the application are the actual principles of the Covenant, as many times proclaimed and as re-stated in perfectly clear terms by the French Government in its Declaration of April 8th, 1936:

"1. The first basis of international relations should be the recognition of the equality of right and independence of all States, as well as the respect of contracted engagements.

"2. There is no durable peace between nations if that peace remains subjected to the fluctuations of the needs and ambitions of each people.

"3. There is no real security in international relations if all conflicts which can arise between States are not resolved according to international law, obligatory on all and interpreted by impartial and sovereign international jurisdiction, and guaranteed by the forces of all the associates of the international community.

"4. The inequality in fact existing between peoples should be compensated within the international community by mutual assistance against any breaking of international law."

As long ago as March 3rd, 1932, the Delegate of France, speaking as President of the Council of the League, said to the Assembly:

"If it depended on sympathies, on community of interests or on friendships, whether the Council could exercise discretion as to whether one of the essential articles of the Covenant should be set in motion, the common guarantee of the League of Nations would have ceased to exist.....
"The League's first duty is to safeguard that supreme asset described as the territorial integrity of Members of the League and the political independence of those Members. The Council repeatedly recalled the fact that no final settlement of the dispute which failed to respect that principle could be approved by it."

Only yesterday, again, the Prime Minister of France proclaimed the ideal of peaceful peoples:

"That ideal, "he said, "is clear, loyal, and logical. It is incarnated in the system of collective security, of peace for all and through all. It calls upon all who desire such a peace to join together against war, to assemble their forces against anyone who seeks to let war loose. Its aim is to unite all the police forces of order against such malefactors. Equality of rights among nations, treaties freely entered into between them, mutual assistance to safeguard and enforce the observance of such treaties and to help to diminish the international burden of armaments - such is the simple but strong framework of the edifice of peace, which offers a common shelter to all peoples of good faith, without exception."

VI. Since the outbreak of the conflict, since its first appeal to the League in January 1935, the Ethiopian Government has never ceased to appeal to these principles. It cannot believe that at this supreme moment, when it is threatened with extermination, the Ethiopian people will be refused the benefit of those principles because an aggressor Government, master of forty-five million subjects, has resolved, relying upon the superiority of its war material and of its economic and financial resources, to appropriate a territory it covets and to stamp out the political independence of a people that stands in the way of its ambitions.

The Ethiopian Government asks the Committee of Thirteen, as it will ask the Council of the League of Nations:

1. To find that the Italian Government has not agreed to negotiate within the framework of the League of Nations and in the spirit of the Covenant;

2. To find that the time has come to apply to the aggressor all the sanctions provided for by Article 16 of the Covenant, and thus to discharge the obligation assumed by all the Members of the League to come promptly and effectively to the assistance of the victim of aggression.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) WOLDE MARIAM
Ethiopian Minister.