

**Report of the Committee of Five, appointed by the Council "to make a general examination of Italo-Ethiopian Relations and to seek for a pacific settlement."<sup>1</sup>**

(Translation)

GENEVA, September 24, 1935.

At its meeting on September 6, the Council appointed a Committee "to make a general examination of Italo-Ethiopian relations and to seek for a pacific settlement." As members of this Committee, it appointed the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Poland, Spain, and Turkey. The Committee set to work immediately. Under the chairmanship of M. de Madariaga (Spain), it held eleven meetings between September 7 and 24.

At its first meeting, the Committee requested its Chairman to inform the parties that, "conscious of its responsibilities for seeking a pacific settlement of the dispute, it relied upon the Governments concerned to see that nothing was done which might disturb or endanger its work."

The Ethiopian delegation replied that "nobody could appreciate the Committee's recommendation more highly than that delegation."

At the outset of its work, the Committee set up a Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of M. López Oliván to study the documentary material furnished by the Ethiopian and Italian Governments and to submit to it the results of that study.

The Italian Government had communicated a detailed memorandum to the Members of the Council on September 4. On September 14, the Ethiopian delegation submitted preliminary observations on this memorandum and announced that its Government reserved the right to forward a full reply based on the study that would be made when the memorandum reached Addis Ababa. The Committee took note of the accusations brought by the Italian Government against Ethiopia, and of the preliminary observations of the Ethiopian delegation. It expressed no opinion on the documents furnished by the two Parties. As an organ of conciliation, the Committee was not called upon to deliver judgment, but to consider a situation and to seek to devise means of remedying it.

The international assistance which Ethiopia, in virtue of her rights under the Covenant, was requesting from the League of Nations seemed to offer a solution which would be acceptable to both Parties: the independence and territorial integrity of Ethiopia would be respected; Italy would have the possibility of resuming, in security, relations with Ethiopia based on good understanding and confident collaboration.

Without pronouncing any opinion on the distinction drawn by the Italian Government between the different parts of the Empire, the Com-

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<sup>1</sup> League of Nations Document No. C 379, M 191, 1935 VII