COMMUNICATED TO THE COUNCIL.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

C.88.1934.VII.
Geneva, January 26th, 1934.

DISPUTE BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY

Communication from the Paraguayan Representative.

Note by the Secretary-General.

At the request of the Paraguayan Representative, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council the following letter, dated January 22nd.

(Translation)

Paris, January 22nd, 1934.

To the Secretary-General.

At the Council meeting on Saturday, January 20th, 1934, the delegate of Bolivia, instead of replying to the arguments to which I had just given utterance before the Council, offered criticisms of a communication sent to the Chaco Commission at Buenos-Aires on January 12th, 1934, by M. Eusebio AYALA, President of the Republic of Paraguay. This diversion, however, will mislead no one.

The President of the Council, M. Beck, had requested the parties to confine their remarks within the limits of the question as placed before the Council. I therefore did not at that time reply to the Bolivian delegate.

He asserts that the continental declaration of the 19 American countries, dated August 3rd, 1932, was not directed against the policy of the Bolivian State, as the telegram from the President of the Republic of Paraguay to the Chaco Commission implies.

I will content myself with reproducing hereunder - in Spanish, to obviate any suspicion of mistranslation - an extract from the Bolivian Government's cable to the Commission of Neutrals at Washington, despatched from La Paz on August 27th, 1932, by M. Julio A. Gutiérrez, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bolivia:
"Paraguay had put the question to the test on the field of arms, and afterwards sought to escape from that field with the aid of diplomatic artifices. Bolivia, acting within her rights and in accordance with international usage, took reprisals and captured three of the many posts that Paraguay has established in Bolivian territory. It was at that juncture that 19 American nations appeared on the scene to proclaim the principle that force does not create rights - a principle that they had all forgotten at times which were sorrowful for many American nations victimised by force."

"In this connection, it should be noted that the new doctrine refers strictly to the case of the Chaco, ignoring all past acts of violence and leaving the door open to all future injustices outside that territory. It presents itself as an ad hoc doctrine for the case of Bolivia."

In this note, therefore, Bolivia quite explicitly recognises that the continental declaration of the American countries was formulated against her policy.

(Signed) R.V. CABALLERO DE BEDOYA,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of Paraguay in France,
Delegate to the League of Nations.

*) Translation by the Secretariat:

"Paraguay habia plantado la cuestión en el campo de las armas, pretendiendo después huir de ese campo, acudiendo a los ardidex diplomáticos. Bolivia, con propio derecho y conforme a normas internacionales, tomó represalias y capturó tres forttines de los muchos que el Paraguay ha establecido en territorio boliviano. Este fué el momento en que 19 naciones americanas aparecieron en la escena para proclamar el principio de que la fuerza no crea derechos, principio que todas ellas habian olvidado en horas que fueron asinas para muchas naciones americanas víctimas de la fuerza."

"Cabe anotar en este punto que la doctrina nueva se refiere restringidamente el caso del Chaco, cerrando los ojos a todas las violencias pasadas y dejando campo a todas las injusticias futuras fuera de ese territorio. se presenta como una doctrina ad hoc para el caso de Bolivia."

(Libro Blanco, Asunción, 1933, P.237).