LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Geneva April 6th, 1933.

DISPUTE BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND PERU: COLOMBIA'S APPEAL UNDER ARTICLE XV OF THE COVENANT.

Communication from the Peruvian Representative.

Note by the Secretary-General.

At the request of the Peruvian Representative the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council and Members of the League the following letter, dated April 5th, 1933.

Translation.

Geneva, April 5th, 1933.

To the Secretary-General of the League of Nations:

I have received the following telegram from the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs and I would request you to bring it to the notice of the members of the Advisory Committee:

"I beg you to lodge a protest on behalf of our Government against the attack of the armed forces of Colombia on the Peruvian post of Guepi, on the river of the same name, on the right bank of the Upper Putumayo. The post of Guepi was established in 1930 after the demarcation of the frontiers, for the surveillance of the Customs and police frontiers, on the river bank recognised by the Salomon-Lozano Treaty as belonging to Peru. It has no strategic or aggressive purpose; it is occupied by a garrison which has never been used for military purposes or - as it might have been - as a menace to Caucaya, a Colombian post situated in the neighbourhood on the left bank of the Putumayo. In 1932 the Colombian authorities of Caucaya seized the Peruvian merchant ships "Sinihroca" and "Huaynacapa" belonging to the firms of Hernandez and Israel, of Iquitos. These merchant vessels were at Caucaya under the protection of the Salomon-Lozano Treaty, the fulfilment of which the Colombian Government is so vehemently demanding. The vessels and their crews were interned at Mecca and their fate is not known.

The attack on Guepi, which was ordered by the Colombian Government, puts an end to the pretence which that Government has tried to maintain in regard to the land and river expeditions which Colombia has been sending to Leticia to restore its authorities. After seven months these expeditions have not been directed towards that objective. An attack has been launched on Guepi, a post which belongs to Peru, and the Colombian forces have no authority to restore there. We now lodge a protest with friendly nations against this act, which was so unforeseen and is so contrary to the affirmations and promises made by Colombia, in order that we may make clear to them the methods and aims of Colombian policy.

(Signed) F. Garcia CALDERÓN, delegate of Peru.