

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

C.312.M.164.1935.VII.

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League.

Geneva, August 14th, 1935.

DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ITALY.

REQUEST BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Members of the Council the following letter which he has received from the Ethiopian Government.

Translation.

Paris, August 12th, 1935.

To the Secretary-General.

Acting upon instructions from my Government, I would beg you to be good enough to lay the following appeal before the Members of the Council of the League of Nations:

Notwithstanding the resumption of the arbitral procedure, in conformity with the Council's decision of August 3rd last, the Royal Italian Government is continuing to send troops and ammunition to East Africa; it is ceaselessly manufacturing arms and implements of war, with the solemnly avowed intention of using them against the Ethiopian Empire.

There is no manufacture in Ethiopia, either public or private, of arms or munitions of war.

The Imperial Ethiopian Government to-day finds it absolutely impossible to obtain means of defence outside its own frontiers. Wherever it attempts to obtain them, it meets with prohibitions and export embargoes.

Is that real neutrality? Is it just?

Will the Council remain unmoved in face of this situation, which is growing steadily worse? Will it allow this unequal combat to continue between two Members of the League of Nations, one of which, all powerful, is in a position to employ, and declares that it is employing, all its resources in preparing for aggression, while the other, weak and pacific, and mindful of its international undertakings, is deprived of the means of organising the defence of its territory and of its very existence, both of which are threatened? Will the Council assume responsibility, in the eyes of the world, for allowing preparations to continue unchecked for the massacre of a people which constitutes a menace to none?

I have the honour to be etc.,

(Signed) P. Teclé Hawariate.