

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to the Council
and Members of the League.

C.474.M.250.1935.VII.

Geneva, December 9th, 1935.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Council and Members of the League the following telegram which he has received from the Ethiopian Government:

(Translation).

ADDIS ABABA, December 7th, 1935.

With reference to the Emperor's telegram of yesterday, we have the honour to transmit the following declaration from the Red Cross:

"We the undersigned doctors at the Tafari Makonnen American Hospital, Dr. Stadin, Dr. Loeb, Dr. Dassius, Dr. Malako Beyene, of No.2. Red Cross dressing-station, Dr. Belau of No.5. Red Cross dressing-station, and Drs. Schuppler and Ahmed of No.3. dressing-station, having our premises visibly marked with the international emblem of the Red Cross, make the following formal declaration: To-day, Friday, December 6th, 1935, at 7.48 a.m. three flights of Italian bombing aeroplanes consisting of four machines each flew over the town of Dessie and dropped incendiary bombs, explosive shrapnel bombs and aerial torpedoes for one hour. We formally declare that the first explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on all the Red Cross dressing-stations on which the international emblems were displayed in large numbers. In detail, five bombs were dropped on the Tafari Makonnen hospital building proper, which contained 35 sick and wounded men and had the Red Cross painted all over the roof. The instrument-room was completely burnt and destroyed by bombs, as were two wards by other bombs. The Head Nurse, Mlle. Navig, has an open fracture of the left leg and her condition is serious. The annex to the hospital 100 metres away, containing sick men, was hit. Although it flew the Red Cross flag the surgical tent of No.2. dressing-station (Drs. Loeb, Dassius and Malako), 200 metres from the hospital, was completely destroyed and set on fire by bombs, and all the material was destroyed. We declare that in the enclosure containing the dressing-stations and the hospital, which is outside the town, the Red Cross emblems were in place and in large numbers. We protest against this inhuman act and stigmatise it before the whole civilised world, and we give notice to all Governments, to the League of Nations and to all religions that more than 40 explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped in the enclosure containing the Red Cross dressing-stations, which were plainly visible, and that we have to deplore some scores of victims killed or wounded by this atrocious and cruel demonstration contrary to all conventions. In witness whereof we sign the present document for purposes of formal record and evidence. Done at Dessie, Ethiopia, December 6th, 1935:

Signatures: MJ Sorenson, AR Stadin MD, Dr. MS Belau,
Dr. Loeb, Dr. Dassius, Malko Beyen MD."

Minister for Foreign Affairs.