

Italy

First Nation

Found Guilty

by League

Fifty-One Countries Vote Sanctions; No Military Measures, Says Laval; Aloisi's Defense; Italian-American Newspapers Split on Issue; What Bolt of Austria and Hungary May Mean

Baron Pompeo Aloisi, Italy's chief delegate to the League of Nations at Geneva, ended his long, uncompromising fight against League opposition to Italy's policies on October 10. Then it was that fifty-one nations of the League Assembly, representing every Continent, condemned Italy as a violator of the League of Nations Covenant because of its undeclared war on Ethiopia.

The first mass-effort in the world to impose the power of peoples on a war-maker was made in the huge hall of the Geneva cantonal Council, a hall arched over with a gray cloth canopy that, according to a Geneva United Press correspondent, gave it the incongruous effect of a circus tent.

The Assembly, a veritable congress of nations, met to put into effect the sanctions against Italy which were voted on October 7 by the League Council. Austria, and Hungary voted "No."

Baron Aloisi, skilful veteran in diplomacy, read his final challenging speech from manuscript as he peered through horn-rimmed spectacles. For thirty-five minutes his voice rang through the hall, over which reigned a silence complete as that of the tomb.



Ten years ago Ras Tafari paid a diplomatic call on King George V. Now known to the world as Haile Selassie, he finds Britain coming to his aid with sanctions

Italy Condemned

The Baron charged that the League had used "two weights and two scales in its work," that it had acted against Italy where it did not act against Japan in the Manchurian crisis, and that it did not even consider Italy's complaints against Ethiopia.

"Why not Japan?" he asked in a glacially ironic tone. "Why not Bolivia and Paraguay in the Gran Chaco War? Why Italy?"

Appeal to America

Continuing his defense of Italy's policy toward Ethiopia Baron Aloisi made a direct appeal to the American nation last Sunday over a country-wide hook-up of the Columbia Broadcasting System. He had planned his address to Americans for Thursday, October 10, from Geneva, but was stopped by British authorities.

In his broadcast from Rome Baron Aloisi charged, first, that the League had failed to pay due attention to the grievances Italy had set forth in the memorandum "stating our view of the true position of Ethiopia in relation to the League of Nations."

Italy's document, he claimed, has remained "a dead letter." Ethiopia, he said also, "far from constituting a coherent State, consists of a nucleus, Ethiopia proper, and a vast belt of conquered colonies inhabited by aboriginal populations. In these regions the central government is present chiefly in the form of atrocities and a slavery system."

Mussolini Condemned

In most positive contrast to the foregoing statement are the remarks of another New York Italian-language daily, *La Stampa Libera*, a non-Fascist organ:

"The League of Nations has spoken. The voice of the entire civilized world is resounding at Geneva. Mussolini has been outlawed for his unjustified and unprovoked war against Ethiopia. It now seems clear that the world is sick and tired of wars of conquest, even when Mussolini calls it a civilizing enterprise.

"The most gratifying aspect of the Geneva proceedings is that which saves the unfortunate Italian people from the stigma of the verdict of guilty. In fact, Geneva has convicted the Italian Fascist Government, and not the Italian Nation as such. It is a just and a fair verdict."

At Geneva an Italian spokesman told the Associated Press that any naval blockade against Italy would mean war. Discussing the possibility that an ineffective economic boycott might lead to a blockade to make sanctions really effective, the spokesman said the Italian people did not fear economic sanctions because Italy counted on getting its necessities from Germany through Austria. He added that oil might be obtained "from some other nation," which could send it to Italy through Germany.

Laval's Statement

There had never been any question of military sanctions against Italy, said Premier Pierre Laval in a statement given at Clermont-Ferrand last Sunday to the French Havas News Agency. When he returned from Geneva to France, wrote P. J. Philip in a Paris cable to the *New York Times*, he found himself facing this situation in the public prints:

"On one side Britain and the whole policy of sanctions were being heaped with

Italy Condemned

most violent abuse, and, on the other, he himself was being accused of having so far inclined toward Italy as entirely to estrange British sympathy and expose France to the danger of an Anglo-German instead of an Anglo-French entente.

"Both in fairness to his colleague, Anthony Eden, at Geneva, and his own defense the French Premier found it necessary to emerge from his habitual muteness and make a direct statement."

Meanwhile in England the bolt of Austria and Hungary from the League's sanctions-proposal against Italy, according to London Associated Press dispatches, was frankly termed disappointing, altho not wholly unexpected. British authorities declared that the position of Austria and Hungary always had been regarded as difficult with respect to imposing sanctions on Italy, but arrangements might have been made to take these positions into account had they not bolted at Geneva.

Incidentally Albania reserved the right to express opposition to or reservation regarding the condemnation, and it was expected to join Austria and Hungary in opposing sanctions.

Light was shed on the ever-memorable Thursday of last week on the recent "diplomatic boar hunt" in East Prussia, in which Julius Goemboes, Premier of Hungary, was the guest of Hermann Wilhelm Goering, Nazi Minister of Aviation, Premier of Prussia, and confidant of Reichsleader Adolf Hitler. Vienna United Press dispatches spoke of possible efforts on the part of Hitler to obtain a restoration of normal relations between Germany and Italy, as opposed to the outlaw brand placed on Italy by the League.

Vienna's diplomatic circles discussed an approaching visit of Premier Goemboes to Rome. They believed Goemboes would carry an important message from Hitler to Il Duce. Vienna cables said further:

"The proposals of the note, it was reported, may lead not only to restoration of normal relations between the two countries, but eventually may obtain for Italy the support of Germany, a non-member of the League, against the penalties.

"Such an alliance, the diplomatic sources said, would provide a corner-stone for a central European combine including Germany, Poland, Hungary and Italy, opposing the Franco-Russian-Little-Entente bloc."