

EMPEROR EXHORTS ETHIOPIA TO FIGHT 'TO THE LAST MAN'

PLEDGES HIS OWN BLOOD

Haile Sellassie Cheered
for Vigorous Speech
Before Parliament.

DECLARES NATION UNITED

Ruler Applauded by Moslems
and Christians Alike—
Assures Foreigners.

U. S. BACKS PEACE EFFORTS

Gives Moral Support to League
Move to Avert Hostilities
by Italy in Africa.

The Italo-Ethiopian Dispute.

ADDIS ABABA—Emperor Haile Sellassie, in a fighting speech, pledged his own blood in leading a united Ethiopia in defense of its independence and integrity. Moslem Deputies in Parliament pledged the support of this element in defense of the country.

WASHINGTON—The United States gave moral support to the projected League of Nations Council meeting to seek a peace formula by reciting the moves made by the State Department in connection with the African dispute. The department revealed that when Ambassador Rosso of Italy saw Secretary Hull, the Secretary had summoned him for the specific purpose of voicing our support of the Pact of Paris.

ROME—Italy warned the League against haste in its consideration of the Ethiopian dispute. Premier Mussolini declared his African colonies ready for their "present and future tasks."

Ethiopians Cheer Emperor.

By G. L. STEER.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, July 18.—At 11:55 this morning a pink silk veil dropped from the Emperor's box in the Parliament House opposite the great palace. Emperor Haile Sellassie, in khaki field uniform, rose from his throne and without further ceremony read his speech, which had been postponed a week because of the diplomatic situation.

His speech was in general a vigorous statement to the nation's leaders that Ethiopia would defend her independence and integrity to her last man. He interpolated in his prepared address a pledge that foreigners in his country would not be molested by Ethiopians, even in the event of a war.

"Your Emperor, who addresses you," he declared, "will be in your midst, not hesitating to pour out his life blood for the independence of Ethiopia." This caused a deep murmur throughout the crowded house.

The assembly included the Cabinet Ministers, the Abuna, Egyptian head of the Ethiopian Church; priests, military officers and members of the public.

Moslems Cheer Pledge of Unity.

The Emperor's reference to the unity of Christians and Moslems in defense of the country was cheered by Moslem Deputies, among others.

The speech, despite its vigorous material, was delivered impassively.

The Emperor began his speech with a general survey of the Italo-Ethiopian tension, which he said had started last August, when Italy began intensively to arm on the Ethiopian frontiers. In reply to a protest by the Ethiopian Chargé d'Affaires in Rome, he declared, Italy accused Ethiopia of aggressive intentions.

The Gondar incident was dismissed by the Emperor as a quarrel between some of his Ethiopian subjects about a woman. The Jalual incident, however, he described at length with careful emphasis on Italian machine-guns, tanks and airplanes. Ethiopia, as a result, he added, had invoked the 1928 treaty, but Italy rejected the appeal.

"We were resolved to defend our honor," declared Haile Sellassie, "but we have always believed that a government ennobles, not debases itself, when it voluntarily submits a quarrel to the judgment, perhaps the condemnation, of a qualified impartial international body."

He recalled the two Ethiopian

Continued on Page Three.

EMPEROR EXHORTS ETHIOPIA TO FIGHT

Continued From Page One.

appeals to the League of Nations Council and the "grudging admission" by Italy of the principle of arbitration and her "practical sabotage through the continual dispatch of troops and munitions to Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, now grandiloquently called Italian East Africa."

He singled out for criticism the Italian choice of arbitrators, contrasting the Italian officials with the French and American international jurists of high reputation who were Ethiopia's representatives on the conciliation commission.

Refers to British Offer.

He mentioned the British offer of the port of Zeila, which he said Ethiopia was willing to discuss but which "Italy brutally swept aside." And as final evidence of not only aggressive but conquering Italian intentions, he mentioned Italian speeches culminating in that of Premier Mussolini on June 18. Mr. Mussolini, he said, wished to pay off Italy's old Adowa account in blood, but Ethiopia was not even the aggressor at Adowa, did not insist on the advantages from her victory which were her right and had not enlarged her domain.

Ethiopia desired no hegemony, said the Emperor, nor did she wish to menace any neighbor. She desired only safeguards forever for her integrity and independence. The Italian aggressor, pretending by sanguinary modern scientific means of aggression to civilize them, he warned, would find the Ethiopians a united people.

"Soldiers," he exhorted, "when you have heard that in battle your loved and respected chieftain has fallen, do not weep or despair. The man who dies for his country is happy.

"Blind death destroys in peace as well as in war. Better die free than live as slaves. Remember your fathers, who fell."

The Emperor appealed to soldiers, traders and farmers, young and old, men and women to unite in defense of their fatherland. As before, he said, women would participate in the defense, encourage soldiers and tend the wounded.

All would unite, he asserted, Christians and Moslems alike, in the face of the invader. God was their shield and buckler against the modern equipment of their enemies of tomorrow.

Finally, the Emperor reiterated his firm attachment to peace and summarized the efforts of the League. He mentioned his recent demarche to the United States invoking the Briand-Kellogg pact, and the third and latest appeal by

the Ethiopian Minister in Paris to the League.

After the blessing and patriotic encouragement had been translated from the Abuna's Arabic and declarations of loyalty had been made by the local Cadi in crimson robes and the Moslem Somali sword-bearers from Ogaden had all been loudly cheered, the veil was raised again over the Emperor's box. The mantled Chamberlain dismissed the assembly.

The Emperor left in his car, accompanied by his little pet dog and the officers of his guard in lion-hair caps. Court officers cleared the way for him with curved swords in scabbards and light wands. The crowd outside thickly plowed up the seasonal mud as, to loud shouts of "Li-li-li-li!" the call of welcome, the Emperor returned to his palace.

Printed booklets containing his speech in Amharic and French were distributed to Members of Parliament for the first time in the history of Ethiopia.

The meeting of Parliament was preceded by a review of troops. At 10 o'clock the Imperial Guard and a mixed squadron of lancers and carabineers numbering 4,000 paraded outside the little Gibbi Palace. They formed on three sides of the square, in the centre of which was a gilt silk-embroidered chair, surmounted by an orange umbrella. The chair was surrounded by the Belgian military mission, Ministers, Deputies and grandees in variously colored mantles.

The Emperor was accompanied by his 13-year-old son, by the War Minister in Western uniform and by Ras Mulughetta, commander of the guard, in brilliant blue. The plume of Haile Sellassie's head-dress and his épauettes were lions' manes.

New Officers Take the Oath.

After riding around the square, the Emperor took his seat in the chair. Thirty-two newly trained officers took the oath in Amharic, holding the Ethiopian colors in their left hands. A general salute followed. The drill of the troops was excellent.

Finally the commander of the guard was promoted from Garazmatch to Kenyasmatch [major] and the Order of the Star of Ethiopia was given to Major Dote, commanding the Belgian mission. In the afternoon a great crowd of young men gathered around the late Emperor Menelik's statue in front of the Cathedral of St. Giorghis. They were said to be members of the Jeunesse d'Ethiopie, a patriotic association recently founded. They listened intently to an address by the priestly guardian of the Menelik Mausoleum, who spoke along much the same lines as the Emperor but more fiercely and denunciatorily. There were no incidents.

The Italian Legation staff moved about freely. There was a general feeling of satisfaction that the Emperor had spoken firmly at last.

Important army officers are going to the north tomorrow by plane.