

The International African Friends of Ethiopia *

To assist by all means in their power,
in the maintenance of the territorial
integrity and the political independence
of Ethiopia.

Chairman : C. L. R. JAMES (*West Indies*)
Vice Chairmen : Dr. P. Mc D. MILLIARD (*British Guiana*)
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JOHN PAYNE (*U.S.A.*)
S. R. WOOD (*Gold Coast*)
Dr. J. B. DANQUAH, Ph.D. (*West Africa*)

62, NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

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AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS

On Sunday, July 28th, a Public Meeting was held by the International African Friends of Ethiopia at the Farringdon Memorial Hall. A Resolution was unanimously carried, which has been widely circulated and copies of which are still available. The Council has since defined more precisely its programme.

The Council aims at sending to Ethiopia a body or bodies of men and women of African race or of African descent to be placed at the disposal of the Emperor and people of Ethiopia to render service, military or civil, as the development of Italian aggression, International Law and other circumstances, may dictate. The Council has already opened a list and men of African race and African descent are already enrolling. The Council agrees entirely with the Italian statement generally attributed to Mussolini, that the attack on Ethiopia is not primarily a question of race but of Italian economic expansion. Yet the reproach most frequently levelled against people of African race—an argument very strongly used against Ethiopia by Italy in the present dispute, and one most keenly felt by large masses of coloured people—is that they are incapable of acting on their own initiative and are always dependent on Europeans. That is the only reason why this Council, though appealing for assistance from all parties and ready to co-operate with all other groups in so far as it is found practical, will maintain its integrity as an African body.

The Council aims at the stimulation and organization of public meetings and demonstrations on a large scale throughout the country, and the publication of pamphlets and a periodical bulletin.

There is a section of influential opinion in Britain, vocal and having great opportunities of publicity at its disposal, which is hostile or indifferent to the treaty and other commitments of the British Government and the League of Nations in regard to Ethiopia. It constantly seeks to prejudice the minds of British people by references to slavery in Ethiopia and the standard of civilization there, and other irrelevant issues disguised to confuse and distract the British public from the fundamental fact of Italian Fascist aggression.

The Council, by its meetings and publications, will do all it can to counteract these malicious and dishonourable manœuvres and see to it that the public is always fully informed of every development of this problem.

* Formerly I. A. F. of Abyssinia

The Council aims finally at co-operating with kindred bodies all over the world which seek by the above and other methods to assist Ethiopia in her struggle. In accordance with the terms of its resolution it calls upon people of African race and descent all over the world to organise themselves for the defence of Ethiopia. We seek co-operation with all bodies, groups and persons ready to assist to struggle with might and main to maintain the independence of the last native African kingdom of Africa, and we earnestly appeal to all groups to get into communication with us.

The Council has placed its plans before Dr. Martin, the Ethiopian Minister in London, who expressed himself as sympathetic to its aims and willing to support its efforts as far as he is able to do.

We therefore appeal for donations and other assistance in the carrying out of our plans.
Cheques should be made payable to the Council of the I.A.F.E., headquarters at 62, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1.

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, JULY 29th, 1935

AFRICANS' PRIDE IN ABYSSINIA—"A Symbol" "WHAT AFRICA WAS AND MAY BE AGAIN"

From our London Staff.

FLEET STREET, SUNDAY.

Africans from the West Indies, the Gold Coast, Somaliland, East Africa, and other places made some eloquent speeches to-night in defence of Abyssinia.

The meeting was held at the Farringdon Memorial Hall by the committee of "the International African Friends of Abyssinia." It was suggested by several speakers that the Italian-Abyssinian dispute had graver issues even than such matters as the sanctity of treaties and the rights of an independent people to defend themselves against aggression. They were sure that the eyes of the coloured races all over the world were watching Abyssinia, and the results of any Italian attack, whether successful or not, might easily be to awaken at last an active desire to combine against European domination.

Mr. T. Albert Marryshow (West Indies) said that from the point of view of population the Empire is a coloured Empire. "The British Empire is only safe and prosperous," he said, "so long as the coloured people are safe and prosperous."

Mr. C. L. R. James, the chairman, gave a lucid history of the European treaties with Abyssinia emphasising that the absolute independence of Abyssinia has always been clearly affirmed by the contracting parties. "Abyssinia," he declared, "is a symbol of all that Africa was and may be again, and we look on it with jealous pride."

A resolution that all Africans and persons of African descent should at once take steps to help Abyssinia to the utmost of their power was passed with enthusiasm. The resolution called upon the League of Nations and the British Government to use all their influence to protect Abyssinia.

NEWS CHRONICLE, MONDAY, JULY 29th, 1935

COLOURED FRIENDS OF ABYSSINIA URGED TO SEND OUT A BATTALION

"News Chronicle" Special Representative.

An impassioned appeal to Africans all over the world to unite in support of Abyssinia was made last night at a meeting of the newly-formed International African Friends of Abyssinia in London.

Coloured men and women crowded the hall.

Wild cheers greeted every mention of Abyssinia and cries of "Shame!" every reference to "Imperialism" and "development of backward countries."

Mr. C. L. R. James, a young West Indian, urged that the cause of Abyssinia was that of every man and woman of African descent.

"And if," he said in a storm of applause, "in their fight for their independence the Abyssinians should be defeated, we look to them to destroy their country rather than hand it over to the invader. Let them burn down Addis Ababa, let them poison their wells and water-holes, let them destroy every blade of vegetation. Let them die free rather than live enslaved!"

LESSON OF BALLOT.—The Peace Ballot had shown, said Mr. James, that 11,000,000 people in England were devoted to League ideals. Of these a large number were in favour of sanctions, even military sanctions, against an aggressor nation.

He proposed, and the meeting agreed, that meetings be held all over the country explaining Abyssinia's position to those who, in signing the Peace Ballot, had shown their support of the League of which she is a member.

"In the event of war," concluded Mr. James, "Africans will show more than sympathy with Abyssinia. We can organise an African battalion to go out and fight with Abyssinian troops; or, if that offer is not accepted, we can help with money, ambulances and in other ways."

The son of the Abyssinian Minister in London urged that Abyssinia, in the present crisis, was sorely in need of help and welcomed the practical sympathy of the meeting.