

[Distributed to the Council,
the Members of the League and
the Delegates at the Assembly.]

Official No. : **A. 17 (a)**. 1930. VI.

Geneva, September 8th, 1930.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

SLAVERY

Report by the Secretary-General, presented in accordance with the Assembly Resolution of September 21st, 1929.

Note by the Secretary-General:

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Assembly as a supplement to document A.17.1930.VI, and in conformity with paragraph 7 of the Assembly resolution dated September 21st, 1929, reproduced in the said document, the following letters from the permanent delegates of the Liberian Republic and of Siam, dated August 25th, 1930, and August 28th, 1930, respectively.

I. LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT DELEGATE OF LIBERIA.

[*Translation.*]

By your letters of November 1st, 1929 (C.L.292.1929.VI), and June 30th, 1930 (C.L.132.1930.VI), you drew my Government's attention to the resolution adopted by the Tenth Assembly of the League concerning :

1. The ratification of the Slavery Convention ;
2. The supply of information concerning slavery.

In reply, I would point out that :

1. The Slavery Convention, signed on September 25th, 1926, was ratified by my Government on November 8th, 1929, and the instrument of ratification was deposited at the Secretariat by myself on May 17th, 1930.

2. In conformity with my letter of September 21st, 1929, to the President of the Council of the League (documents A.81.1929.VI, C.446.1929.VI, and *Official Journal*, November 1929, page 1682), the Government of the Liberian Republic, having spontaneously and of its own accord decided to lay before an international Commission of Enquiry the question of slavery and forced labour in Liberia, set up this Commission of three members : one appointed by the Council of the League, one appointed by the Government of the United States of America and a third appointed by the Liberian Government.

At the request of my Government, the Council having appointed its representative, the Commission, composed of Dr. Cuthbert Christy (member appointed by the Council of the League), Dr. Charles Johnson (member appointed by the United States of America Government), and the Honourable Sir Arthur Barclay (ex-President of Liberia), began its work on April 8th last, under the chairmanship of Dr. Christy. In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Commission's duties, however, this enquiry will last four or five months (document C.510.M.170.1929.VI and *Official Journal*, December 1929, page 1870), and, unless anything unforeseen occurs, its work will only come to an end during the first fortnight in September, when the Commission will lay its final report before my Government.

As soon as I receive a copy of this report I will, of course, submit it to you.

I would ask you to bring this letter to the notice of the Council, the Members of the League and the coming Assembly.

(Signed) Antoine SOTTILE,

*Chargé d'Affaires, Permanent Delegate of the
Liberian Republic accredited to the League of Nations.*

Series of League of Nations Publications

VI.B. SLAVERY

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II. LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT DELEGATE OF SIAM.

With reference to your letters (C.L.292.1929.VI and C.L.132.1930.VI), dated November 1st, 1929, and June 30th, 1930, respectively, addressed to His Highness the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Bangkok concerning the Slavery Convention, I have the honour to inform you, under instructions from my Government, that the provisions of this Convention in fact do not affect Siam. His Majesty's Government is, however, in sympathy with the principles underlying the Convention, and its adhesion is being considered. As regards the position of Slavery in Siam, His Majesty's Government has no further information to give in addition to that already communicated to the League of Nations in its report dated May 23rd, 1924, and in a letter dated July 8th, 1926. (See document A.10(b).1926.VI.)

(Signed) VARNVAIDYA,
Siamese Minister,
Permanent Delegate to the League of Nations.
