

N° 395.

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**ALBANIE ET ITALIE**

Convention télégraphique signée à  
Tirana le 4 décembre 1922.

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**ALBANIA AND ITALY**

Telegraphic Convention, signed at  
Tirana, December 4, 1922.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

## No. 395. — TELEGRAPHIC CONVENTION BETWEEN ALBANIA AND ITALY, SIGNED AT TIRANA, DECEMBER 4, 1922.

*Official French text communicated by the Director of the Permanent Albanian Secretariat accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place on March 23, 1923.*

In virtue of Article 17 of the International Telegraphic Convention of St. Petersburg,<sup>2</sup> the undersigned Representatives of the above-mentioned States have agreed, subject to the approval of the competent authorities of their respective States, upon the following provisions :

*Article 1.*

The Albanian Government recognises the right of the Italian Government to maintain in Albania the landing points of the following submarine telegraph cables which now connect Italy and Albania :

- (1) Otranto-Valona-Sazano ;
- (2) Brindisi-Valona ;
- (3) Brindisi-Durazzo.

The landing points of the cables in question may be moved by agreement between the telegraph administrations of the two countries.

*Article 2.*

The Italian Government undertakes to maintain these cables in good working order, and to provide for their repair in case of interruption or if the condition of their insulation and conductivity will not allow of the regular transmission of telegrams.

The Albanian Government recognises the right of the Italian Government to supervise the cable service and to place at the landing points in Albanian territory such mechanical protections and apparatus for the upkeep of the cables, as the Italian administration may consider it necessary to adopt and to install through its technical officials.

These officials shall therefore have free access to Albanian telegraph offices which are in direct connection with Italian telegraph offices, and may undertake any experiments necessary to test the electrical condition and efficiency of the cables.

Before undertaking such operations however the Italian officials shall consult the local Albanian telegraph authorities.

The Italian Government shall also be entitled, through its telegraph officials, to supervise the landing-shelters of the cables ; at the request of the Albanian Government, however, these duties may be entrusted to Albanian telegraph officials recognised as qualified by the Italian technical officials.

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

<sup>2</sup> British and Foreign State Papers, vol. 66, page 19.

*Article 3.*

The Italian Government shall be under no obligation to compensate the Albanian authorities in respect of any of the matters referred to in the preceding article. Italian cable-repair ships shall be exempt from sanitary dues, pilotage, anchorage and all other maritime dues in respect of any operations they may have to carry out on the Albanian coast.

The necessary materials for the landing, upkeep and repair of the cables shall also be exempt from customs and all other dues.

*Article 4.*

To ensure the satisfactory working of the cables provided for in Article 1, the Albanian Government undertakes :

- (a) To connect the landing points of the cables as soon as possible, and at its own expense with the Albanian telegraph offices at Valona and Durazzo, and other offices to be selected later, and to transmit in a regular and consecutive manner telegraphic communications between these offices and the Italian telegraph offices selected by the Italian telegraph administration.
- (b) To carry on the service and keep the accounts connected therewith in accordance with the provisions of the International Telegraphic Convention and the service regulations in force.
- (c) To take immediate steps to repair any faults or interruptions which may be discovered in the land lines which connect the cables with the Albanian telegraph offices.

*Article 5.*

The Albanian Government recognises the right of the Italian Government to fix the transit charges for its cables between Italy and Albania.

*Article 6.*

The Albanian Government undertakes to forward by the Italian cables :

- (a) All telegrams despatched from Albania to destinations in Italy ;
- (b) All telegrams despatched from Albania to countries beyond Italy if such telegrams are endorsed " via Italy ", or, in accordance with the international telegraphic regulations, if the Italian route is the most inexpensive or is as inexpensive as any other route ;
- (c) Telegrams in transit through Albania to destinations in Italy and countries beyond Italy, under the conditions laid down in the previous paragraph.

*Article 7.*

The Albanian Government undertakes to grant to the Italian Government the right of landing additional sub-marine telegraph cables for the purpose of connecting Italian coast towns with places on the Albanian coast (to be selected later by agreement between the telegraph administrations concerned) in order to provide additional telegraphic communication either between Italy and Albania or between Italy and the countries bordering on Albania.

In the latter case the Albanian Government undertakes to construct and place at the disposal of Italy such telegraph lines as it may be decided to establish in order to ensure direct communication between Italy and the countries bordering on Albania, subject to the following condition :

- (a) The Italian telegraph administration shall supply the Albanian telegraph administration with all the material for lines required for the above-mentioned purpose. The value of this material shall subsequently be refunded by the Albanian Government to the Italian administration, by instalments, in the form of the transit charges due to the latter on messages forwarded over these lines. The Albanian telegraph lines in question shall, however, remain the property of the Italian telegraph administration until the total value of the material supplied shall have been refunded by the Albanian telegraph administration.
- (b) The Albanian Government and the Italian Government shall, by common agreement, make the necessary representations to the neighbouring States with the object of concluding any conventions which may be required.
- (c) The route to be followed by the telegraph lines referred to above shall be agreed upon by the Italian and Albanian administrations, and the points of junction of the wires at the Albanian frontiers shall be fixed by agreement between the three administrations concerned.
- (d) The Albanian transit charges on messages forwarded over these lines shall be fixed by agreement between the Italian and Albanian telegraph administrations.

*Article 8.*

A reduction of 50 % on the charges for ordinary private telegrams shall be granted in respect of Government telegrams exchanged by way of the Italian cables between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of either of the two contracting States and its diplomatic and consular representatives in the other State.

*Article 9.*

The telegraph administrations of Italy and Albania undertake, in paying the balances of telegraphic accounts, to carry out the provisions of Article 1 of the final Protocol of the Executive Regulations of the Principal Postal Convention of Madrid, 1920, taking the dollar of the United States of America as the gold parity and the gold franc as representing 0.192957 dollars.

*Article 10.*

The present Convention shall remain valid for 10 years from the date of its coming into force unless it is denounced by one of the contracting Governments, 6 months' previous notice being given.

As from the date indicated, the Convention shall be considered to be tacitly renewed from year to year unless it is denounced by one of the two Governments 6 months before the date of its expiry.

*Article 11.*

The present Convention shall come into force on January 1, 1923.

Done at Tirana, December 4, 1922.

For Italy :  
DURAZZO.  
G. GNEME.

For Albania :  
PANDELI J. EVANGHELI.  
N. DELVINA.