

N° 1468.

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UNION ÉCONOMIQUE  
BELGO-LUXEMBOURGEOISE  
ET SIAM

Traité d'amitié, de commerce et de navigation, avec protocole de signature. Signés à Bangkok, le 13 juillet 1926, et échange de notes y relatif, de la même date.

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ECONOMIC UNION OF  
BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG  
AND SIAM

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, with Protocol of Signature. Signed at Bangkok, July 13, 1926, and Exchange of Notes relating thereto of the same Date.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION.—TRANSLATION.

NO. 1468. — TREATY<sup>2</sup> OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN THE BELGO-LUXEMBURG ECONOMIC UNION AND SIAM. SIGNED AT BANGKOK JULY 13, 1926.

*French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Treaty took place May 11, 1927.*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS, ACTING BOTH IN HIS OWN NAME AND ON BEHALF OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LUXEMBURG, in virtue of existing agreements, of the one part, and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SIAM, of the other part, being desirous of strengthening the commercial and friendly relations which happily exist between the Belgo-Luxemburg Union and Siam,

Being convinced that this object cannot be better accomplished than by revising the Treaties hitherto existing, have resolved to conclude a Treaty to this effect and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

M. POLAIN, Belgian Chargé d'Affaires at Bangkok ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SIAM :

His Highness Prince TRAIKOS PRABANDH, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who, having communicated their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles :

*Article 1.*

There shall be perpetual peace and constant friendship between the High Contracting Parties. The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy, under the same conditions as the nationals of the most favoured nation, and subject to the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the other Party, freedom to enter, travel and reside in these territories and to carry on, either in person or through an agent, wholesale or retail trade and industry, and to engage in religious, educational or charitable work and for this purpose to own, or lease and occupy land, houses, factories, warehouses and shops. Most-favoured-nation treatment shall likewise be applied under the same conditions to the use of cemeteries.

The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall, moreover, subject to reciprocity, be authorised under the same conditions as nationals, to acquire and possess movable and immovable property, and to dispose of the same by sale, exchange, gift, legacy or otherwise, and to receive inheritances either *ab intestato* or by bequest. They shall not be compelled, under

<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> The exchange of ratifications took place at Bangkok, March 25, 1927.

any pretext whatever, to pay any charges, taxes or impositions other or higher than those paid by nationals of the most favoured nation.

*Article 2.*

The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy, in the territory of the other, entire liberty of conscience, and, so long as they conform to the laws, ordinances and regulations of the country, shall enjoy the right of private or public exercise of their worship.

*Article 3.*

The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the territory of the other, complete protection and constant security for their persons and property, and shall be entitled, in this respect, to the same rights and privileges as are or may be granted to the nationals of the most favoured nation.

They shall be exempt, in the territories of the other Party, from compulsory military service in the regular forces, national guard or militia ; they shall likewise be exempt from any contribution in lieu of personal military service ; they shall not be subjected in peace time or war time to any military exactions or requisitions other than those imposed on nationals, and they shall reciprocally be entitled to obtain such indemnities as are accorded to nationals by the laws in force in the respective countries. In the above respects, nationals of either High Contracting Party shall not be subject, in the territory of the other Party to treatment less favourable than that which is or may hereafter be accorded to nationals of the most favoured nation.

*Article 4.*

The dwellings, warehouses, factories and shops and the premises appertaining thereto, as well as all other property of the nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties in the territory of the other, shall be respected. It shall not be lawful for domiciliary visits or perquisitions to be carried out therein or for books, papers or accounts to be examined or inspected except under the conditions and rules laid down by the legal provisions which are applicable to nationals.

*Article 5.*

There shall be entire freedom of commerce and navigation between the territories of the two Contracting Parties. The nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall have full liberty, on the same terms as nationals of the most favoured nation, to proceed with their vessels or cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the territories of the other Party, which are, or may hereafter be, open to foreign trade. Provided that they conform to the laws of the country in which they arrive, they shall enjoy the same rights, privileges, freedoms, immunities and exemptions in the matter of commerce and navigation as are enjoyed or may hereafter be enjoyed by nationals of the country.

*Article 6.*

The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties shall have free access to the Courts of Justice for the purpose both of enforcing and defending their rights on the same footing as nationals. They shall be free like nationals to choose their counsel and agents. Lastly, they shall enjoy in this connection, and subject to reciprocity, the same rights and privileges as are granted to nationals and shall be subject to the same conditions.

*Article 7.*

Commercial companies and other associations which are constituted in conformity with the laws of one of the High Contracting Parties and which have their head offices in the territory of that Party, shall have their legal existence recognised in the territory of the other Party, and they shall be authorised within the territory of the other, provided that they conform to the laws of such Party, to exercise their rights, to establish branches and to appear before the Courts, either as plaintiffs or defendants.

*Article 8.*

Goods originating in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, and which pass in transit through the territory of the other Party, in conformity with the laws of the country in question, shall be reciprocally exempt from all transit dues, whether they pass direct, or whether they have to be unloaded, warehoused and reloaded during transit.

The exemption from transit dues does not imply exemption from taxes levied by the Customs Administration to cover the expenses of inspection or administration occasioned by transit or warehousing, nor from fiscal dues charged on transactions carried out in connection with the goods during their warehousing or transport.

*Article 9.*

The Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union recognises Siam's right to fix in full sovereignty the rates for import and export duties, drawbacks and all other taxes or contributions. Consequently, the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union agrees that Siam should increase her Customs duties to a higher figure than that fixed in the agreements hitherto in force between Belgium and Siam, and between Luxemburg and Siam, on condition, however, that all other nations which have concluded similar treaties with Siam assent to these increases without requiring any compensation, benefit or privileges.

It is agreed, moreover, that the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union shall benefit immediately and unconditionally by any reduction in duties, or by any favours that Siam may grant to any third Power in connection with importation and exportation, transit, drawbacks, and in general, all matters concerning Customs duties and formalities. Reciprocity of treatment shall be granted to Siam in these matters.

The High Contracting Parties shall grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment in connection with the prohibitions and regulations at present in force, or which may be introduced in the future, regarding the import and export of goods.

*Article 10.*

Duties and internal taxes on behalf of the State, provinces, communes, or other public institutions, which are or may be levied on the production, preparation or consumption of goods in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, shall not be imposed on the products, goods or articles of the other Party, to a greater or more burdensome extent than on national products, goods or articles of the same kind, or on those coming from the most-favoured nation.

*Article 11.*

Merchants, manufacturers and other persons engaged in industrial enterprises, who prove by the possession of an identity card, issued by the authorities of their country, that they are

authorised to carry on an industry in the State in which they are domiciled shall be entitled, either personally or through commercial travellers employed by them, to make purchases, and even take samples with them, and to solicit orders in the territory of the other Contracting Party, so long as they comply with the laws and regulations of that country, including the provisions with regard to taxation.

Persons engaged in industrial enterprises (commercial travellers) provided with an identity card may take samples with them, but not goods.

The High Contracting Parties agree to apply in this connection, the provisions of the International Convention<sup>1</sup> relating to the Simplification of Customs formalities, concluded at Geneva on November 3, 1923, most-favoured-nation treatment being mutually guaranteed.

#### *Article 12.*

Vessels and boats flying the flag of one of the High Contracting Parties entering, in ballast or in cargo, the waters and ports under the jurisdiction of the other Party, or leaving these waters and ports, whatever may be the place of their departure or destination, shall not be subject either on entering, leaving or during passage, to any duty or tax of any sort whatsoever levied in the name and on behalf of the State, provinces, communes, public institutions, or any other bodies, other or higher than those which are or may hereafter be levied on national vessels. Their cargoes, no matter where they have been shipped, shall not pay other or higher import duties and shall not be subject to charges other than those levied on goods imported on national vessels, it being understood that all articles which are or which may hereafter be legally imported into the ports of one High Contracting Party on national vessels, may also be imported into these ports by vessels of the other Party. Passengers and their baggage carried on such vessels shall similarly be treated as if they were travelling on vessels flying the national flag.

As regards the stationing, loading and unloading of vessels in ports, roadsteads, harbours and basins, and generally as regards all formalities and regulations applicable to merchant vessels, their crews and cargoes, it is agreed that no privilege or special facilities shall be granted to national vessels which are not also granted to vessels of the other State, it being the desire of the Contracting Parties that their vessels shall, in these respects also, be placed on a footing of complete equality.

Vessels and boats sailing under the flag of one of the High Contracting Parties and carrying ship's papers as required by the laws of the country whose flag they fly, shall be recognised as of right as possessing the nationality of this country in the territorial waters, internal waters and ports of the other Contracting Party, without being required to furnish further evidence of the fact.

#### *Article 13.*

The provisions of the present Treaty shall not apply to vessels engaged in the coasting trade, the régime of this trade being subject to the laws of the respective High Contracting Parties.

It is agreed, however, that in this respect, vessels of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy the rights and privileges which are or which may hereafter be accorded to vessels of any other country.

#### *Article 14.*

Except as otherwise provided by the principles of international law applicable in time of war, a ship of war or merchant vessel of one of the High Contracting Parties which may be com-

<sup>1</sup> Vol. XXX, page 371; Vol. XXXV, page 324; Vol. XXXIX, page 208; Vol. XLV, page 140; Vol. L, page 161; Vol. LIV, page 398, and Vol. LIX, page 365 of this Series.

pelled, by stress of weather or by reason of any other distress, to take shelter in a port of the other, shall be at liberty to refit therein, to procure all necessary supplies, and to put to sea again, without paying any dues other than such as would be payable by national vessels. In case, however, the master of a merchant vessel should be under the necessity of disposing of a part of his cargo in order to defray expenses, he shall be bound to conform to the local regulations and tariffs.

If a ship of war or merchant vessel of one of the High Contracting Parties should run aground or be wrecked upon the coasts of the other, the local authorities shall inform the Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul, or Consular Agent at the place of the accident, or, if there be no such official, they shall inform the nearest Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent.

All measures in connection with the salvage of Siamese vessels wrecked or stranded in Belgian territorial waters shall be carried out in conformity with Belgian laws, ordinances and regulations, and conversely, all salvage measures in connection with Belgian vessels wrecked or stranded in Siamese territorial waters shall be carried out in conformity with Siamese laws, ordinances and regulations.

All ships and vessels thus wrecked or stranded, together with all wreckage and appurtenances, all furnishings belonging to them and all effects and merchandise salvaged from the said ships or vessels, including those which may have been cast into the sea, or the proceeds thereof, if sold, as well as all papers found on board such wrecked or stranded ship or vessel, shall be given up to the owners or their agents, when claimed by them. If such owners or agents are not on the spot, the aforesaid property or proceeds from the sale thereof shall be delivered to the respective Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, or Consular Agents at their request, within the period fixed by the laws of the country, and the said Consular officers, owners or agents shall pay only the expenses incurred in the preservation of the property, together with the salvage or other expenses which would have been payable in the case of the wreck of a national vessel.

The goods and merchandise saved from the wreck shall be exempt from all Customs duties unless cleared for internal consumption, in which case they shall pay ordinary duties.

Should a vessel belonging to nationals of one of the High Contracting Parties be wrecked or run aground in the territory of the other, the respective Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls, or Consular Agents shall be authorised in the absence of the owner, captain or other representative of the owner, to give their official aid with a view to procuring any assistance the nationals of their respective States may require. The same shall apply if the owner, captain or other representative is present and should ask for such assistance.

#### *Article 15.*

Except where otherwise provided by the principles of international law applicable in time of war, the vessels of war of each of the High Contracting Parties may enter, remain and make repairs in those ports and places of the other to which vessels of war of other nations are accorded access. They shall there submit to the same regulations and enjoy the same honours, advantages, privileges and exemptions as are now or may hereafter be conceded to the vessels of war of any other nation.

#### *Article 16.*

Each of the High Contracting Parties agrees to admit Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents of the other to all ports, towns and places except in districts where it would be undesirable to admit such agents.

This reservation, however, shall not be applied to one of the High Contracting Parties unless it is applied to all other Powers.

Consuls-General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents of each of the High Contracting Parties shall mutually enjoy, in the territory of the other, all privileges, exemptions and immunities enjoyed by officials of the most favoured nation possessing the same rank and qualification. The said officials, before being admitted to carry on their duties and to enjoy the immunities attached thereto, shall produce a commission in the form laid down by the laws of their respective countries. They shall not, however, enter on their duties without the consent of the Government of the country to which they are sent, and the latter shall provide them without delay and free of charge with an exequatur guaranteeing them of the free exercise of their duties, and on production of this document they shall enjoy the rights, prerogatives and immunities granted by the present Treaty.

*Article 17.*

Nationals of each of the High Contracting Parties shall enjoy, in the territory of the other, the same protection as nationals of the latter regarding patents, trade marks and designs as long as they comply with the formalities laid down by law.

*Article 18.*

On the death of a national of one of the Contracting Parties in the territory of the other Contracting Party the competent local authorities shall immediately advise the nearest Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul or Consular Agent of the country of which the deceased was a national ; similarly, the said consular authorities, on their side, shall advise the local authorities when they receive information first.

On the demand of the Consular Officers concerned, the competent local authority shall supplement this notification by transmitting a copy of the death certificate in due form, and free of charge.

In the event of the legal incapacity or absence of heirs or the absence of testamentary executors, the officers of the consular service, acting with the competent local authority, shall be entitled, in conformity with the laws of their respective countries, and insofar as local legislation permits, to execute all acts necessary for the conservation and administration of the estate, and more particularly, shall be entitled to affix and break seals, make the inventory and administer and liquidate the estate ; in short, they may take all necessary steps to safeguard the interests of heirs, except where disputes arise.

The above provisions shall also be applicable in the case of a national of one of the High Contracting Parties, owning property in the territory of the other Party, who dies outside the territories in question, without leaving, in the place in which this property is situated, any person entitled to take charge of the estate and to administer it.

*Article 19.*

The competent Consular Officers of each of the High Contracting Parties shall alone be entrusted with the duty, in the territories of the other Party, of maintaining order on board the merchant vessels of their own country and shall alone be competent to deal with disputes which may arise, either at sea or in the territorial waters and ports of the other Party, between masters of vessels, officers and crews, particularly as regards the payment of wages and the execution of contracts. The territorial authorities may, however, exercise jurisdiction in case there should occur on board a merchant vessel of one of the High Contracting Parties in the territorial waters and ports of the other Party any disorders which the competent local authorities may regard as endangering, or as likely to endanger, the maintenance of peace and order in these waters or on shore.

*Article 20.*

If a sailor deserts or irregularly leaves a merchant vessel flying the flag of one the High Contracting Parties in the territorial waters of the other, the local authorities shall be bound, within

the limits of the law, to afford all assistance in their power to secure the arrest and surrender of the sailor, if requested to do so by the competent Consular Authority of the country to which the vessel in question belongs. They shall be refunded any expenses which they have incurred in this connection by the Consular Officer in question.

If the sailor in question has been guilty of any infraction of the law, his surrender shall be deferred until the competent court has pronounced sentence and such sentence has been carried out.

It is understood that the stipulations of the first paragraph shall not apply to nationals of the country in which the desertion or abandonment takes place.

#### Article 21.

The present Treaty shall be substituted, as from the date of the exchange of ratifications, for the Treaty<sup>1</sup> of Friendship and Commerce, signed at London between Belgium and Siam on August 29, 1868, for the Additional Articles<sup>2</sup> to this Treaty, signed at Brussels on August 4, 1883, regarding the import and sale of spirits in Siam, and, in the case of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, for the Treaty<sup>3</sup> concluded between the German "Zollverein" and Siam, signed at Bangkok on February 7, 1862. From this date these acts shall cease to be valid.

The provisions of the present Treaty shall only apply to overseas colonies and territories under Belgian sovereignty and authority after the expiration of a period of two months from the date on which the Belgian Government shall have expressly signified that it adheres to the Treaty on their behalf.

#### Article 22.

The provisions of the present Treaty shall not be interpreted in such a way as to infringe the autonomy conferred on Siam by the present Treaty in Customs, fiscal and judicial matters.

#### Article 23.

The present Treaty shall come into force as from the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years from that date.

In case neither of the High Contracting Parties shall have notified the other twelve months before the expiration of the period of five years of its intention to terminate the Treaty, it shall remain in force for a period of one year from the date on which one or other of the High Contracting Parties shall have denounced it.

It is clearly understood, however, that such denunciation shall not have the effect of reviving any of the acts mentioned in Article 21 of the present Treaty.

#### Article 24.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Bangkok as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 59, page 405.

<sup>2</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 74, page 677.

<sup>3</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 53, page 741.



In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate in the French language at Bangkok on July the thirteenth, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six of the Christian era, corresponding to the thirteenth day of the fourth month of the year Two thousand four hundred and sixty-nine of the Buddhist era.

(L.S.) M. POLAIN.

(L.S.) TRAI DOS PRABANDH.

### PROTOCOL

#### REGARDING THE JURISDICTION APPLICABLE TO BELGIAN SUBJECTS IN THE KINGDOM OF SIAM.

When proceeding to sign the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, the Plenipotentiaries of the High Contracting Parties have agreed as follows :

##### *Article 1.*

The jurisdiction hitherto exercised by Belgian consular officers in Siam and the privileges, exemptions and immunities hitherto enjoyed by Belgian subjects and Belgian commercial companies and associations arising out of this jurisdiction shall cease and determine as from the date of the exchange of ratifications of the above-mentioned Treaty.

Thereafter, Belgian and Luxemburg nationals, commercial companies and associations in Siam shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Siamese courts.

##### *Article 2.*

Until the promulgation and putting into force of all the Siamese Codes — namely, the Civil and Commercial Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Law on Judicial Organisation, and for a period of five years thereafter but no longer, Belgium shall have the right to evoke any case pending before a Siamese court other than the Supreme Court, when a Belgian national or a Belgian commercial company or association is defendant or accused.

This right of evocation shall be exercised by the Belgian diplomatic or consular officials, in every case where they may consider it necessary in the interests of justice, by means of a written requisition addressed to the judge or judges before which such case is pending.

If use is made of this right, the cases shall be tried by the diplomatic or consular officials in conformity with the Belgian laws, whether relating to procedure or to the execution of judgments, applicable in this particular case, and the jurisdiction of the Siamese Courts over such cases shall cease. The diplomatic or consular official, however, shall apply the Siamese laws in all matters regulated by the Codes or Laws of the Kingdom of Siam regularly promulgated and in force, the texts of which have been communicated to the Belgian Legation at Bangkok.

##### *Article 3.*

Appeals by Belgian nationals or Belgian commercial companies or associations from judgments of Siamese Courts of First Instance, shall be referred to the Court of Appeal at Bangkok.

An appeal on a question of law shall lie from the Court of Appeal at Bangkok to the Supreme or "Dika" Court.

*Article 4.*

Until such time as the right of evocation has lapsed, that is to say, until five years after the above-mentioned Siamese Codes have come into force, any Belgian national or Belgian commercial company or association involved as defendant or accused in a case being tried in the provinces may always request that the case should be removed from the jurisdiction of the competent Tribunal. If this application is admitted by the local judicial authorities, the case shall be tried either at Bangkok or on the spot by the same judges as would compose the competent Tribunal at Bangkok. This application shall be notified to the Belgian consular agent.

*Article 5.*

Until such time as all the above-mentioned Siamese Codes shall have come into force, the Siamese Government shall continue to communicate to the Belgian Legation in Siam the texts of all newly promulgated laws and regulations, and shall endeavour to take into account any observations that the said Legation may make within a reasonable period on the subject of these texts.

*Article 6.*

In order to prevent difficulties which may arise from the transfer of jurisdiction contemplated by the present Protocol, it is agreed that :

(a) All cases in which action shall be taken subsequently to the date of the exchange of ratifications of the present Treaty shall be entered and decided in the Siamese Courts, whether cause of action arose before or after the said exchange of ratifications ;

(b) The jurisdiction of Belgian Courts in Siam, with regard to cases and proceedings, both civil and criminal, which may be pending before the said Courts at the time of the coming into force of this Treaty, shall continue to be exercised until a final and definite judgment has been pronounced.

The Siamese authorities shall, upon request of the Belgian diplomatic or consular official concerned, give their assistance with regard to any case brought before the said officials under clause (b) of the present Article, and with regard to any case which may involve the right of evocation provided for under Article 2.

*Article 7.*

The benefits of the present Protocol shall be granted to Luxemburg nationals to the same extent as to Belgian nationals.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Protocol and have thereto affixed their seals .

Done in duplicate in the French language at Bangkok on July the thirteenth, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six of the Christian era, corresponding to the thirteenth day of the fourth month of the year Two thousand four hundred and sixty-nine of the Buddhist era.

(L. S.) M. POLAIN.

(L. S.) Traidos PRABANDH.

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES

REGARDING THE BELGO-SIAMESE TREATY (JULY 13, 1926).

BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TRAI DOS PRABANDH, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BANGKOK.

Your EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date in which your Highness was good enough to forward the Royal Siamese Government's assurance to the Belgian Government that, after the codification of Siamese laws had been completed, as provided for in Article 2 of the Protocol of Jurisdiction annexed to the Treaty, and when a law on Conflicts of the Laws governing the personal status of foreigners in Siam had been promulgated, His Majesty's Government would give favourable consideration, if a request to this effect was made by the Belgian Government, to the question of initiating negotiations between the two countries with a view to the conclusion of a Convention of private international law regarding the personal status of their respective subjects. This Convention, if it should prove necessary to conclude it, shall be based on the following principle: the personal status of Belgian and Luxemburg subjects in Siam, and of Siamese subjects in Belgium and Luxemburg, shall be governed by their respective national laws, in so far as these are not considered in the country of residence as being contrary to public order.

I have the honour to be, etc.

M. POLAIN.

PALAIS DE SARANROMYA, BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

TO MONSIEUR M. POLAIN, BELGIAN CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, BANGKOK.

SIR,

When proceeding to sign the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, the Royal Siamese Government has the honour to assure the Belgian Government that, after the codification of Siamese laws has been completed, as provided for in Article 2 of the Protocol of Jurisdiction annexed to the Treaty and when a law on Conflicts of the Laws governing the personal status of foreigners in Siam has been promulgated, His Majesty's Government will give favourable consideration, if a request to this effect is made by the Belgian Government, to the question of initiating negotiations between the two countries with a view to the conclusion of a Convention of private international law regarding the personal status of their respective subjects.

This Convention, if it should prove necessary to conclude it, shall be based on the following principle: the personal status of Belgian and Luxemburg subjects in Siam, and of Siamese subjects in Belgium and Luxemburg, shall be governed by their respective national laws, in so far as these are not considered in the country of residence as being contrary to public order.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.

Traidos PRABANDH,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

PALAIS DE SARANROMYA, BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

MONSIEUR M. POLAIN, BELGIAN CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, BANGKOK.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date in which you were good enough to inform me that the Belgian Government interprets paragraph 4 of Article 9 in the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, signed to-day, in the same way as the Siamese Government, that is to say, that the latter shall have the right, as long as it continues to apply most-favoured-nation treatment, to enact such prohibitions as it may think fit, and in particular, those specified in Article 3 of the Draft Treaty submitted by the Siamese Government to the Belgian Government.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.,

Traidos PRABANDH,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

TO HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TRAIIDOS PRABANDH, MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BANGKOK.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, .

When proceeding to sign the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that the Belgian Government interprets paragraph 4 of Article 9 in the said Treaty in the same way as the Siamese Government, that is to say that the latter shall have the right, as long as it continues to apply most-favoured-nation treatment, to enact such prohibitions as it may think fit, and in particular, those specified in Article 3 of the Draft Treaty submitted by the Siamese Government to the Belgian Government, the text of which is annexed hereto.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

M POLAIN.

DRAFT TREATY SUBMITTED BY THE SIAMESE GOVERNMENT TO THE BELGIAN  
GOVERNMENT

*Article 3.*

There shall be full and entire liberty of trading and navigation between the territories and possessions of the High Contracting Parties.

It shall be lawful for citizens or subjects of each of the Contracting Parties to proceed freely and in all security with their vessels and cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the territory of the other which are or may hereafter be open to foreign trade and navigation ; except with respect to

spirituous distilled or fermented beverages, alcoholic liquors, or alcohol, opium and its derivatives, cocaine, heroin and other narcotics dealt with in the International Opium Convention<sup>1</sup>, signed at The Hague on January 23, 1912, as well with respect to arms and ammunition, the trade in which may be regulated and restricted, subject to the application of the most-favoured-nation clause at their discretion by each of the High Contracting Parties in their territories and possessions, — the sale and re-sale by any person or any organisation of goods produced or manufactured by one of the High Contracting Parties in the territories or possessions of the other shall be exempt from all governmental restrictions or limitations with a view to, or having the effect of, creating or maintaining a monopoly or "concession" for the benefit either of the Government or of a private individual or an organisation.

PALAIS DE SARANROMYA, BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

TO MONSIEUR M. POLAIN, BELGIAN CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, BANGKOK.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date in which you were good enough to inform me that the Belgian Government's interpretation of Article 8 of the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, signed to-day, was in conformity with the declarations of the Barcelona Conference of 1921.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc., etc.

Traidos PRABANDH,  
*Minister for Foreign Affairs*

BANGKOK, *July 13, 1926.*

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TRAI DOS PRABANDH, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
BANGKOK.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

When proceeding to sign the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Belgo-Luxemburg Economic Union and Siam, I have the honour to inform Your Highness that the Belgian Government's interpretation of Article 8 of the Treaty is in conformity with the declarations of the Barcelona Conference of 1921.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

M. POLAIN.

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. VIII, page 187; Vol. XI, page 414; Vol. XV, page 310; Vol. XIX, page 282; Vol. XXIV, page 162; Vol. XXXI, page 244; Vol. XXXV, page 298; Vol. XXXIX, page 167; and Vol. LIX, page 346, of this Series.