

N° 2303.

**ESPAGNE
ET TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

Traité de conciliation, de règlement
judiciaire et d'arbitrage. Signé à
Prague, le 16 novembre 1928.

**SPAIN
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Treaty of Conciliation, Judicial Sett-
lement and Arbitration. Signed at
Prague, November 16, 1928.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 2303. — TREATY² OF CONCILIATION, JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AND ARBITRATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT PRAGUE, NOVEMBER 16, 1928.

French official text communicated by the Permanent Delegate of the Czechoslovak Republic accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Treaty took place March 28, 1930.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN, being desirous of strengthening the ties of friendship existing between Czechoslovakia and Spain and of settling, in accordance with the highest principles of public international law, any disputes which may arise between the two countries,

Have resolved to conclude a Treaty for this purpose and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC :

Dr. Edvard BENEŠ, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN :

His Excellency M. Joaquin DE EZPELETA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Prague,

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

Article 1.

The High Contracting Parties reciprocally undertake to settle by pacific means and in accordance with the methods provided for in the present Treaty, all disputes or conflicts of any nature whatsoever, which may arise between Czechoslovakia and Spain and which it may not have been possible to settle by the normal methods of diplomacy.

PART I.

Article 2.

All disputes of every kind between the High Contracting Parties with regard to which the Parties are in conflict as to their respective rights, and which it may not have been possible to settle

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Madrid, November 30, 1929.

amicably by the normal methods of diplomacy, shall be submitted for decision to an arbitral tribunal or to the Permanent Court of International Justice. Disputes for the settlement of which a special procedure is laid down in other conventions in force between the High Contracting Parties shall be settled in conformity with the provisions of those conventions.

Article 3.

In the case of a dispute the subject of which, according to the municipal law of one of the Parties, falls within the competence of the national courts, such Party may require that the dispute shall not be submitted to the procedure laid down in the present Treaty until a final judgment has been pronounced, within a reasonable time, by the competent judicial authority.

Article 4.

Before any recourse is had to the judicial procedure prescribed in Article 2 of the present Treaty, the dispute may, by agreement between the Parties, be submitted with a view to amicable settlement to a permanent international commission, styled the Permanent Conciliation Commission, constituted in accordance with the present Treaty.

Article 5.

The Permanent Conciliation Commission shall be composed of five members. The Contracting Parties shall each appoint a commissioner of its own choosing, and shall appoint by common agreement the three other commissioners, and, from among the latter, the President of the Commission. These commissioners may not be nationals of the Contracting Parties, nor may they have their domicile in the territory or be employed in the service of the Contracting Parties. They must all three be of different nationalities.

The commissioners shall be appointed for three years. If on the expiry of the term of office of a member of the Commission no arrangement has been made for his replacement, his term of office shall be deemed to be renewed for a period of three years; nevertheless, the Parties reserve the right on the expiry of the term of three years, to transfer the functions of President to another of the members of the Commission appointed by common agreement.

Any member whose term of office expires while proceedings are still in progress shall continue to take part in the examination of the dispute until the close of such proceedings, even if his successor has been appointed.

Vacancies which may occur as a result of the death or retirement of any member of the Conciliation Commission shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office of such member, if possible within the following three months, and in any case as soon as a dispute is submitted to the Commission.

Should one of the members of the Conciliation Commission appointed by common agreement by the Contracting Parties be temporarily prevented by illness or any other cause from taking part in the Commission's work, the Parties shall agree to appoint a substitute to take his place for the time being.

If the appointment of this substitute is not made within three months from the time when the seat became temporarily vacant, the procedure laid down in Article 6 of the present Treaty shall be applicable.

Article 6.

The permanent Conciliation Commission shall be constituted within the six months following the exchange of ratifications of the present Treaty.

If the nomination of the members to be appointed jointly should not have taken place within the said period or, in the case of the filling of a vacancy, within three months from the time when the seat falls vacant, the Council of the League of Nations shall, in the absence of other agreement and at the request of one or other of the Parties, be asked to make the necessary appointments.

Article 7.

The Permanent Conciliation Commission shall be informed by means of a request addressed to the President by the two Parties acting in agreement.

The request, after giving a summary account of the subject of the dispute, shall contain an invitation to the Commission to take all the necessary measures with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement.

Article 8.

Within fifteen days from the date on which the dispute shall have been brought before the Commission, either Party may, for the examination of the particular dispute, replace the permanent member whom it has appointed by a person possessing special competence in the matter. The Party desiring to make use of this right shall immediately inform the other Party; the latter shall be entitled to exercise the same right within fifteen days from the date on which it shall have received notification.

Each of the Parties reserves the right to appoint immediately a substitute to replace for the time being any permanent member appointed by it who may be temporarily prevented by illness or any other cause from taking part in the work of the Commission.

Article 9.

The task of the Conciliation Commission shall be to elucidate the questions in dispute, to collect with that object all necessary information by means of enquiry or otherwise, and to endeavour to bring the Parties to an agreement. It may, after the case has been examined, inform the Parties of the terms of the settlement which seem suitable to it and lay down a period within which they are to make their decision.

At the close of its proceedings the Commission shall draw up a report stating, as the case may be, either that the Parties have come to an agreement and, if need be, the terms of the agreement or that it has been impossible to effect a settlement.

The proceedings of the Commission must, unless the Parties agree otherwise, be terminated within six months from the day on which the Commission is notified of the dispute.

If a settlement has not been effected between the Parties, the Commission may, unless the two commissioners freely appointed by the Parties oppose this procedure, order a report to be published setting forth the opinion of each of the members of the Commission, even before the Permanent Court of International Justice or the Arbitral Tribunal, notified of the dispute, has given a final decision.

Article 10.

Failing any special provision to the contrary, the Conciliation Commission shall lay down its own procedure, which in any case must provide for both Parties being heard. In regard to enquiries, the Commission, unless it unanimously decides otherwise, shall act in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III (International Commissions of Enquiry) of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

Article 11.

The Conciliation Commission shall meet, in the absence of an agreement by the Parties to the contrary, at a place selected by its President.

Article 12.

The proceedings of the Conciliation Commission shall be private, unless the Commission, with the consent of the Parties, decides otherwise.

Article 13.

The Parties shall be represented before the Conciliation Commission by agents, whose duty it shall be to act as intermediaries between them and the Commission ; they may, moreover, be assisted by counsel and experts appointed by them for that purpose, and they may request that all persons whose evidence appears to them useful should be heard.

The Commission, on its side, shall be entitled to request oral explanations from the agents, counsel and experts of the two Parties, as well as from all persons it may think fit to summon with the consent of their Government.

Article 14.

Unless otherwise provided in the present Treaty, the decisions of the Conciliation Commission shall be taken by a majority vote.

Article 15.

The Contracting Parties undertake to facilitate the work of the Conciliation Commission and, particularly, to supply it to the greatest possible extent with all relevant documents and information, and to use the means at their disposal to enable it to proceed in their territories and in accordance with their laws to the summoning and hearing of witnesses or experts and to visit localities in order to carry out enquiries on the spot.

Article 16.

During the proceedings of the Conciliation Commission, each commissioner shall receive an allowance, the amount of which shall be fixed by agreement between the Contracting Parties.

Each Government shall pay its own expenses and an equal share of the joint expenses of the Commission, the allowances provided for in paragraph 1 being included in these joint expenses.

Article 17.

In the event of no amicable agreement being reached before the Permanent Conciliation Commission, the dispute shall be submitted either to an arbitral tribunal or to the Permanent Court of International Justice, as provided in Article 2 of the present Treaty.

In this case, and also when there has been no previous recourse to the Conciliation Commission, the Parties shall jointly draw up a special agreement referring the dispute to the Permanent Court of International Justice or appointing arbitrators. The aforesaid agreement shall clearly state the subject of the dispute, the particular competence that might devolve upon the Permanent

Court of International Justice or Arbitral Tribunal and any other conditions arranged between the Parties. This agreement shall be constituted by an exchange of notes between the two Governments.

The Permanent Court of International Justice, when requested to give a decision on the dispute, or the Arbitral Tribunal, when appointed for the same purpose, shall respectively be competent to interpret the terms of the special agreement.

If the special agreement has not been drawn up within three months from the day on which, one of the parties was requested to submit the matter for judicial settlement, either Party may, on the expiry of one month's notice, bring the dispute direct before the Permanent Court of International Justice by means of a request.

The procedure applicable shall be that laid down by the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice or, in the case of recourse to an arbitral tribunal, that laid down by the Hague Convention¹ of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

PART II.

Article 18.

All questions on which the Governments of the two High Contracting Parties may differ without being able to reach an amicable solution by the normal methods of diplomacy, which cannot be submitted for decision as provided in Article 2 of the present Treaty, and for the settlement of which no procedure has been provided by any Treaty or Convention in force between the Parties, shall be referred to the Permanent Conciliation Commission.

Failing agreement between the Parties on the request to be made to the Commission, either Party shall be entitled to submit the question direct to the said Commission on the expiry of one month's notice.

Should the request be preferred by one Party only, that Party shall notify such request forthwith to the other Party.

The procedure laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 7 and in Articles 8 to 16 of the present Treaty shall be applicable.

Article 19.

In the event of no agreement being reached between the Parties, the dispute shall, at the request of either Party, be submitted for decision to an arbitral tribunal consisting, in the absence of any other agreement between the Parties, of five members appointed for each individual case, according to the method laid down in Articles 5 and 6 of the present Treaty for the constitution of the Conciliation Commission. This arbitral tribunal shall, in such a case, act as a special referee and shall draw up a settlement which shall be binding upon the Parties.

Article 20.

Should recourse be had to arbitration, the Contracting Parties undertake to conclude, within three months from the day on which one of the Parties shall have addressed to the other a request for arbitration, a special agreement concerning the dispute and the methods of procedure.

If this agreement cannot be concluded within the time stipulated, it shall be compulsorily provided for in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter IV of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, and the recourse to arbitration shall, in such case, be governed by the provisions of that Convention.

¹ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 100, page 298.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 21.

Should the Permanent Court of International Justice or Arbitral Tribunal find that a decision of a court of law or any other authority of either of the Contracting Parties is wholly or in part contrary to international law, and if the constitutional law of that Party does not permit, or only partially permits, the consequences of the decision in question to be annulled by administrative action, the judicial decision or arbitral award should indicate the nature and extent of the compensation to be granted to the injured Party.

Article 22.

During the course of proceedings of conciliation, judicial settlement or arbitration, the Contracting Parties shall abstain from all measures likely to affect the acceptance of the proposals of the Conciliation Commission or the execution of the judgment of the Permanent Court of International Justice or the award of the Arbitral Tribunal; for this purpose the Conciliation Commission, the Court of Justice and the Arbitral Tribunal shall, if necessary, lay down the provisional measures to be adopted.

Article 23.

Any disputes arising as to the interpretation or execution of the present Treaty shall, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, be submitted direct to the Permanent Court of International Justice by a simple request.

Article 24.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Madrid as soon as possible.

The present Treaty shall come into force on the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for ten years from that date. Unless denounced six months before the expiration of that period, it shall be regarded as renewed for a period of ten years and similarly thereafter.

If, at the time of the expiration of the present Treaty, proceedings of conciliation, judicial settlement or arbitration are pending, they shall pursue their course until their completion, in accordance with the stipulations of the present Treaty.

In faith whereof the above-named Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Prague, November 16, 1928.

(L. S.) Dr. Edvard BENEŠ.

(L. S.) Joaquin DE EZPELETA Y MONTENEGRO.