

N° 2909.

BELGIQUE ET FRANCE

Convention pour l'application de
certaines mesures sanitaires au
Congo belge et à l'Afrique équatoriale
française. Signée à Paris,
le 29 juillet 1931.

BELGIUM AND FRANCE

Convention for the Application of
certain Sanitary Measures in the
Belgian Congo and French Equatorial
Africa. Signed at Paris,
July 29, 1931.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2909. — CONVENTION ² BETWEEN BELGIUM AND FRANCE FOR THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN SANITARY MEASURES IN THE BELGIAN CONGO AND FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA. SIGNED AT PARIS, JULY 29, 1931.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place March 7, 1932.

THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, desirous of protecting their colonies of the Belgian Congo and French Equatorial Africa, against epidemic and infectious diseases ;

Taking into account and remaining within this frame work of the provisions of the International Sanitary Convention ³ signed at Paris on June 21, 1926, and especially of Article 9 thereof ;

Have decided to conclude a special Convention and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for this purpose ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS :

His Excellency Baron DE GAIFFIER D'HESTROY, His Ambassador Extraordinary in France,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC :

M. Aristide BRIAND, Deputy, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

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

Article 1.

The communicable diseases to which this Convention applies are :

Plague,
Cholera,
Yellow fever,
Typhus,
Variola (major or minor),
European relapsing fever,
Trypanosomiasis.

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 Paris, December 23, 1931.

³ Vol. LXXVIII, page 229 ; Vol. XCII, page 409 ; Vol. CIV, page 513 ; and Vol. CVII, page 524, of this Series.

Article 2.

The terms of this Convention shall be temporarily applicable to all other communicable diseases which, in the opinion of the two Governments, has assumed the character of a serious epidemic in the territories near the frontier.

Article 3.

The Administrations of the two colonies may by common consent modify, by omission or addition, the list of the diseases communicated in Article 1.

Article 4.

The Governments of the Belgian Congo and French Equatorial Africa shall exchange, through their medical services, monthly bulletins regarding the appearance and spread in their respective contiguous territories of all the diseases specified in Article 1. These bulletins shall also mention, so far as possible, the number of cases, the extent of the outbreak and its tendency to increase or diminish.

In addition to the monthly reports, particulars regarding the outbreak or development of epidemics of the diseases specified in Article 1, or of those which have assumed the dangerous character specified in Article 2, shall be immediately communicated with all possible despatch.

Article 5.

Apart from the bulletins mentioned in the preceding Article, the Government of the infected country shall issue the notification of diseases provided for in Part I, Chapter I, Section I, Article 1 of the Paris International Sanitary Convention of 1926.

Article 6.

The two Governments may convene, in Belgian or in French territory as circumstances warrant, conferences of health experts to consider the improvement of protective measures in the two colonies, and to enable medical officers to co-operate more closely in this respect.

In the interval between these sessions, the medical officers of the frontier districts shall exchange all useful information and may arrange meetings whenever they consider it necessary to exchange views.

Article 7.

The two Governments shall endeavour to maintain a chain of medical stations in their contiguous territories, and shall so far as possible exercise effective supervision over the diseases specified in Article 1 prevailing among the natives of these districts.

Article 8.

So far as circumstances permit, natives crossing from the Belgian Congo into French Equatorial Africa or *vice versa* shall be supplied with a passport or permit stating that they are not suffering from any of the diseases specified in Article 1, or, if they are suffering from sleeping sickness, that they have no trypanosomes in their peripheral blood.

The certificate shall be prepared by the health authorities of the last place at which the holder resided in his country of origin and shall be *visé* in the country of destination when the emigrant enters or leaves the country. It must be *visé* by the health authorities of the country of origin every time the holder leaves the country, unless the journey be repeated within three months following the date of the first visa.

Article 9.

The following shall not be allowed to pass from one colony into the other :

- (a) Any person suffering from one of the six first diseases specified in Article 1 or one of those fulfilling the conditions laid down in Article 2 ;
- (b) Persons suffering from tuberculous or mixed leprosy, open tuberculosis or yaws, and persons suffering from trypanosomiasis who have not been treated or in whom examination has revealed the presence of parasites in the peripheral blood.
- (c) Any persons coming from a zone which has been officially declared infected with one of the diseases specified in Article 1 — except trypanosomiasis — or fulfilling the conditions laid down in Article 2, unless the sanitary authorities of the country of destination consider that quarantine measures will be sufficient.

Article 10.

When natives of one of the Contracting Parties are found infected in the territory of the other Party with one of the infectious diseases mentioned in Articles 1, 2 and 9, the medical authorities who have diagnosed these diseases shall take steps, if they consider it reasonable and without risk to the life of the patients, to hand them over to a representative of the medical authorities of the other country.

Should that be impossible, the medical authorities of the former country shall transmit to those of the latter all the information they are able to collect concerning the identity and place of residence of the diseased natives.

Article 11.

Both Governments shall instruct their medical services to devote all possible attention in the frontier region of the two territories :

- (a) To smallpox vaccination,
- (b) To the prophylactic and curative treatment of sleeping sickness,
- (c) To improvement works for all possible destruction of the *glossina* and other dangerous insects,
- (d) To taking a census of and to the treatment of lepers,
- (e) To all other measures to prevent the infection of un-infected territory.

The two Administrations shall confer with a view to co-ordinating their efforts, in their contiguous territories, against communicable diseases, and more especially sleeping sickness. For this purpose the special services are recommended to communicate to one another in due time the itinerary of tours of doctors in the frontier zones in order that they may be arranged so as to coincide as far as possible.

Article 12.

In May of each year the Administrations of the two colonies shall exchange the following maps and table concerning the districts lying along their common frontier :

- (a) A map showing the distribution and incidence of sleeping sickness in the various zones,

(b) A map showing the zones infested with tse-tse flies and the relative density of the latter,

(c) A statistical table showing, by zones, the approximate number of persons suffering from trypanosomiasis and their ratio to the total population.

Article 13.

The present provisions shall not affect existing international sanitary regulations.

Article 14.

Any disputes between the parties concerning the interpretation of this Convention shall be settled by arbitration.

Article 15.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done in duplicate at Paris, July 29, 1931.

(Signed) (L. C.) E. DE GAIFFIER.

(Signed) (L. C.) A. BRIAND.