

**GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET IRLANDE DU NORD ET FRANCE**

Déclaration conjointe adressée par les Gouvernements du Royaume-Uni et de la République française au Gouvernement belge, par laquelle la Belgique se trouve déliée de toute obligation résultant pour elle, à leur égard, soit du Traité de Locarno, soit des Arrangements intervenus à Londres le 19 mars 1936, signée à Bruxelles, le 24 avril 1937, et

Notes par lesquelles le Gouvernement belge prend acte de la déclaration susmentionnée, Bruxelles, le 24 avril 1937.

**GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND FRANCE**

Joint Note addressed to the Belgian Government by the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the French Republic relating to the Release of Belgium from all Obligations towards them resulting from either the Treaty of Locarno or the Arrangements drawn up in London on the 19th March, 1936, signed at Brussels, April 24th, 1937, and

Notes by which the Belgian Government takes note of the above-mentioned Declaration, Brussels, April 24th, 1937.

No. 4112. — JOINT NOTE¹ ADDRESSED TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF BELGIUM FROM ALL OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THEM RESULTING FROM EITHER THE TREATY OF LOCARNO OR THE ARRANGEMENTS DRAWN UP IN LONDON ON THE 19TH MARCH 1936. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, APRIL 24TH, 1937.

English and French official texts communicated by His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Great Britain and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic. The registration of this Note took place May 13th, 1937.

In accordance with instructions received from their respective Governments, His Majesty's Ambassador and the French Ambassador have the honour to make the following communication to the Belgian Government :

1. The Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the French Republic have not failed during the last few months to give their full attention to the desire of the Belgian Government to have the international rights and obligations of Belgium clarified in certain respects where this is rendered necessary by her geographical position and by the delays which may still occur before the negotiation and conclusion of the general act intended to replace the Treaty² of Locarno.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic, being anxious to give full expression to their sympathy with this desire of the Belgian Government, have agreed to make the following declaration :

3. The said Governments have taken note of the views which the Belgian Government has itself expressed concerning the interests of Belgium, and more particularly :

(1) The determination expressed publicly and on more than one occasion by the Belgian Government : (a) to defend the frontiers of Belgium with all its forces against any aggression or invasion, and to prevent Belgian territory from being used, for purposes of aggression against another State as a passage or as a base of operations by land, by sea or in the air ; (b) to organise the defence of Belgium in an efficient manner for this purpose ;

(2) The renewed assurances of the fidelity of Belgium to the Covenant of the League of Nations and to the obligations which it involves for Members of the League.

4. In consequence, taking into account the determination and assurances mentioned above, the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic :

Declare that they consider Belgium to be now released from all obligations towards them resulting from either the Treaty of Locarno or the arrangements drawn up in London on the 19th March 1936, and that they maintain in respect

¹ Came into force April 24th, 1937.

² Vol. LIV, page 289, of this Series.

of Belgium the undertakings of assistance which they entered into towards her under the above-mentioned instruments.

5. The Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic agree that the release of Belgium from her obligations, as provided for in paragraph 4 above, in no way affects the existing undertakings between the United Kingdom and France.

(*Sé*) Esmond OVEY.

BRITISH EMBASSY, BRUSSELS, *April 24th*, 1937.

Copie certifiée conforme :

*Le Ministre plénipotentiaire,
Chef du Service du Protocole,*

M. Lozé.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

NOTES

BY WHICH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES NOTE OF THE DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC OF APRIL 24TH, 1937. BRUSSELS, APRIL 24TH, 1937.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of these Notes took place June 9th, 1937.

I. *April 24th*, 1937.

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

The Royal Government has taken note with great satisfaction of the Declaration of this day's date communicated to it by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and tenders its warmest thanks.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) P. H. SPAAK.

His Excellency

Sir Esmond Ovey,

His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador,
Brussels.

II. *April 24th*, 1937.

MONSIEUR L'AMBASSADEUR,

The Royal Government has taken note with great satisfaction of the Declaration of this day's date communicated to it by the Government of the Republic, and tenders its warmest thanks.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) P. H. SPAAK.

His Excellency

Monsieur Laroche,

Ambassador of the French Republic,
Brussels.

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.