

N° 458.

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**POLOGNE ET ROUMANIE**

Convention sanitaire, signée à Varso-  
vie le 20 décembre 1922.

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**POLAND AND ROUMANIA**

Sanitary Convention, signed at War-  
saw, December 20, 1922.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 458. — SANITARY CONVENTION <sup>2</sup> BETWEEN POLAND AND ROUMANIA, SIGNED AT WARSAW, DECEMBER 20, 1922.

*French official text communicated by the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this convention took place July 24, 1923.*

POLAND, of the one part, and ROUMANIA, of the other part, being actuated by the desire to protect their respective territories against the occurrence and spread of epidemic diseases, have resolved to conclude a Sanitary Convention, and for this purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

POLAND :

Dr. Witold CHODZKO, Minister of Public Health.

ROUMANIA :

Dr. Jean CANTACUZÈNE, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Bucharest, who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed to the following provisions :

## I.

## OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES IN THE EVENT OF THE OUTBREAK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIES.

*Article I.*

The Contracting Parties undertake to notify each other immediately by telegram of the first appearance of recognised cases of cholera or plague. They also undertake to inform each other in writing of any spread, of a clearly epidemic nature, of relapsing fever, typhus or smallpox.

The notification of the diseases mentioned above shall be drawn up in French and shall give the following particulars :

- (1) The name of the disease in French, followed by the scientific name in Latin
- (2) The place and date of the appearance of the disease,
- (3) The origin of the disease,
- (4) The number of cases and deaths,
- (5) The infected administrative area (Article 9),
- (6) Action taken.

<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 Bucarest, July 11, 1923.

*Article 2.*

In addition to the notifications provided for in Article 1, which are to be made immediately, bi-monthly returns relating to the subsequent development of the diseases specified in Article 1, together with any information which may be of epidemiological importance, must also be supplied. These returns shall rectify any errors or inaccuracies which may be contained in the earlier notifications.

*Article 3.*

Each of the Contracting Parties undertakes to communicate at regular intervals to the other Contracting Party all information published by the Central Public Health Authorities with regard to the conditions of public health and, more particularly, the progress of infectious diseases.

Whenever a recently imported case of an infectious disease makes its appearance within the territory of one of the Contracting States, or whenever one of the diseases which are endemic clearly shows a tendency to become epidemic, that State shall be bound to inform the other Contracting State of the facts, and also to communicate to it any particulars which throw light on the new conditions.

*Article 4.*

This Convention may, after an understanding has been reached by the Parties through diplomatic channels, be extended to infectious diseases other than those specified in Article 1.

*Article 5.*

When one of the Contracting States has been notified of the appearance of an infectious disease of an epidemic character within a district belonging to a third Power, and when it has adopted precautionary measures to meet this danger, it shall inform the other Contracting State of the preventive measures adopted and also of the source of the information, which led to the adoption of those measures.

*Article 6.*

The notifications referred to in Article 1 and also the returns referred to in Articles 2 and 3, shall be made by the Central Public Health Authorities of the State supplying the information direct to the Central Public Health Authorities of the other Contracting State. A statement in the same terms shall also be forwarded by the former State to its diplomatic representative in the capital of the infected country and to the Health Section of the League of Nations.

*Article 7.*

Should one of the two Contracting Parties deem it expedient to attach a medical officer to its diplomatic staff in the capital of the other Party, the Central Health Service of the country to which this official has been sent as a delegate shall give him all the necessary facilities to enable him to keep in close touch with the epidemic situation and with any other questions affecting the public health of his country.

## II.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES APPLICABLE TO PERSONS COMING FROM INFECTED AREAS.

*Article 8.*

A territory shall be declared infected :

As regards cholera, as soon as one or more imported cases have led to an outbreak of disease among the local population, apart from persons directly associated with the patient,

As regards relapsing fever, typhus or smallpox, as soon as the increase in the number of cases shows that the diseases clearly tend to assume an epidemic character,

As regards plague, as soon as the presence of one or more non-imported cases has been ascertained, or as soon as cases of plague duly authenticated by bacteriological examination have been ascertained among rats (or other rodents) in the district.

A single administrative unit of the national territory — district (powiat, plasa), or an urban or rural commune (comuna urbana sau rurala, gmina,) — may be declared an infected area.

The State in which the infected territory is situated shall be responsible for declaring such area infected.

*Article 9.*

Notification that a territorial unit is declared to be infected and that the appropriate measures have been taken accordingly shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.

*Article 10.*

A commune or district (communa, gmina or plasa, or powiat) which has been declared an infected area under Article 8 shall be regarded as free from all infection, in the case of cholera or of plague, on the expiration of a period of five days as from the death or the isolation of the last patient. As regards typhus, relapsing fever or smallpox, the area shall be regarded as free from infection as soon as the disease has lost its epidemic character and no longer shows any tendency to spread.

*Article 11.*

The following measures may be taken to prevent the introduction of the diseases enumerated in Article 1 :

- (a) Medical inspection and examination,
- (b) Supervision of travellers at the places where they arrive,
- (c) Evacuation and segregation of persons suffering, or suspected to be suffering, from one of the above-mentioned diseases,
- (d) The disinfection of, and destruction of, insects on persons and in luggage, railway waggons and infected portions of vessels,
- (e) The disinfection of goods and, in cases of plague, the destruction of rats,
- (f) Vaccination, if necessary, against cholera, plague or smallpox, of travellers who are not in possession of a vaccination certificate.

*Article 12.*

Persons coming from the infected area and persons whose symptoms show that they are suffering from one of the diseases enumerated in Article 1, shall be liable to medical inspection and examination at the frontier.

Persons crossing the frontier in large parties under non-hygienic conditions, as well as gypsies and tramps, may be medically inspected and examined by the Public Health Authorities of the country to which they are proceeding, even if they do not come from infected areas.

*Article 13.*

Persons who, as a result of a medical examination, are shown to be suffering from one of the diseases enumerated in Article 1, or whose symptoms are such as to make it appear likely that they are suffering from one of these diseases, shall be isolated by the Public Health Authorities of the State to which they are proceeding in order that they may be cared for in institutions specially set up for this purpose. They shall remain in these institutions until they are completely cured.

It is inadmissible to detain persons in good health for purposes of observation.

Persons coming from infected areas shall, when they have completed their journey, be subject to sanitary supervision for a period which may not exceed five days in the case of cholera or plague, and fourteen days in the case of relapsing fever, typhus or smallpox, such period to be reckoned from the date on which the person in question left the infected area. For this purpose such persons may be ordered to report to the competent sanitary authorities on their arrival at their destination.

*Article 14.*

Public Health and railway officials and delegates officially authorised by their Governments shall only be subject to sanitary measures on the frontier, if it is clear that they are suffering from one of the diseases specified in Article 1.

*Article 15.*

Personal luggage shall only be liable to disinfection and treatment for the destruction of insects when the duly authorised medical officer has reason to suspect that such luggage is infected.

III.

MEASURES RELATING TO GOODS.

*Article 16.*

*A.* — Goods may only be disinfected when the duly authorised medical officer is satisfied that there is clear evidence that the goods are dangerously contaminated.

*B.* — The goods mentioned below may be subjected to disinfection and to treatment for the destruction of insects if they come from an infected area. If these preliminary measures are not agreed to, the importation of goods shall be prohibited :

(1) Clothing, linen and bedding which have been worn or used.

When these articles are conveyed as personal luggage or are transported in consequence of the owner changing his place of residence, they shall be dealt with in the manner laid down in Article 15.

(2) Rags, excluding tightly packed rags coming in well-protected bales.

C. — The importation of the following may not be prohibited on public health grounds :

(1) Unused clippings and other waste material coming directly from textile factories, spinning-mills, factories engaged in the manufacture of ready-made clothing and rolling-mills, and also artificial wool and newly made paper.

(2) Letters, postcards, printed matter, books, pamphlets, commercial documents, etc., excluding postal packets containing articles specified in sub-paragraphs 1 and 2 of paragraph B.

The transit of goods across the territory of one of the Contracting States may not be forbidden when these goods are wrapped or packed in such a way as to exclude any risk of infection. These goods shall not be subjected during the journey to any process of disinfection.

The place at which disinfection or treatment for the destruction of insects may be carried out will be specified beforehand by the authorities of the country of destination.

The disinfection and the treatment for the destruction of insects will be carried out by the recognised scientific method appropriate to the nature of the goods.

#### *Article 17.*

The Contracting States, being convinced that the measures adopted to protect public health can only prove successful if the public, and more particularly the railway shipping employees, realise the importance of these measures, undertake to give the staff the necessary instruction on infectious diseases and on the manner in which they are disseminated, and also on the practical means by which such measures may be prevented. They also undertake to keep travellers and the population of the districts on the frontier fully informed of the sanitary measures which have been adopted.

### IV.

#### MEASURES REGARDING RAILWAYS AND OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

#### *Article 18.*

Persons arriving at the frontier by rail, and also their luggage, shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions set out in the previous articles. These measures must, however, be carried out in such a way as not to impede railway traffic.

With this object in view, the Contracting States shall organise at their frontier stations, within a period of two years from the coming into force of this Convention, suitably equipped posts for purposes of medical supervision, the capacity of which shall correspond to the amount of traffic usually passing through these frontier stations.

#### *Article 19.*

The Contracting States undertake :

(1) To ensure the cleanliness and disinfection of, and the destruction of insects in passenger trains arriving at the frontier,

(2) Constantly to exercise within the precincts of the station strict sanitary supervision, to take measures to ensure that the station is provided with a supply of good drinking water, to keep the lavatories on trains and in the station itself clean, to see that the restaurants are clean and to forbid, during a cholera epidemic, the sale at the frontier station of food-stuffs which are likely to contribute to the spread of infection (uncooked fruit, vegetables and milk).

*Article 20.*

When a person suffering from one of the diseases specified in Article I is discovered on a train arriving at the frontier, the waggon in which he travelled shall be uncoupled and disinfected within the territory of the country of destination by the authorities at the frontier station.

Passengers who have been in contact with the patient shall be medically examined and particulars regarding them shall be communicated to the sanitary authorities of the district to which they are proceeding. They shall there be kept under observation as provided for in the International Sanitary Convention<sup>1</sup> of 1912 for a period to be reckoned from the date on which the existence of the case was ascertained. Their personal luggage shall be dealt with in the manner laid down in Article 15.

*Article 21.*

The principles and provisions of this Convention shall apply equally to traffic by road and traffic by water.

As regards traffic by air, the measures laid down shall be applied by the sanitary authorities at the first landing-place.

*Article 22.*

The places in which sanitary observation stations are to be set up on the frontier, shall be determined by agreement between the Central Sanitary authorities of the two Contracting Parties. In the event of the spread of a dangerous epidemic, the Contracting States retain the right to close the frontier against travellers and goods, coming from an infected area to districts which are inadequately provided with properly equipped sanitary posts. The Contracting States undertake to notify each other of such measures at least eight days beforehand, and also to provide facilities for the movement of travellers and goods through other places on the frontier.

*Article 23.*

No charge shall be imposed upon travellers in respect of any medical assistance which may have been given them at the frontier sanitary posts, or in respect of their segregation, or of any outlay incurred as a result of the application of this Convention.

The expenditure mentioned above shall be borne by the country within the territory of which these measures have been adopted.

Charges for disinfection and for the destruction of insects and rats shall only be imposed in the case of goods which have been subject to these measures and shall be strictly proportional to the expenditure incurred as a result of such measures.

The Contracting States shall inform each other of the total amount of the respective charges.

If, however, one of the Contracting States should consider it advisable to impose a public health charge on certain classes of passengers travelling in large parties (in accordance with Article 49 of the International Convention of 1912), it shall inform the other State of such charge and the other State may adopt similar measures.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. IV, page 281 of this Series.

## V.

## SPECIAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WITHIN THE FRONTIER-ZONE.

*Article 24.*

Apart from the information to be exchanged between the Contracting Parties under Articles 1, 2 and 3 the Public Health Authorities in the frontier zone shall enter into direct relations with each other for the purpose of supplying each other with particulars as complete as possible regarding the sanitary conditions in their respective areas.

These particulars shall include :

- (1) Notification of the first occurrence of any of the diseases specified in Article 1.
- (2) Information at regular intervals regarding the development of these diseases and regarding any facts likely to facilitate the enforcement of sanitary measures.
- (3) Measures which have been adopted.

Moreover, the Public Health Authorities in the frontier zone shall communicate to each other returns of infectious diseases not referred to in Article 1.

A zone consisting of the frontier districts (powiat, plasa), and also the territory of districts which do not touch the frontier but are situated within five kilometres of it, shall be regarded as a frontier zone.

Within a period of one month from the coming into force of this Convention, the Contracting States shall communicate to each other a list of the frontier districts (powiat, plasa), and communes, together with a list of the Public Health Authorities responsible for these administrative areas.

*Article 25.*

In the event of the appearance of cholera, plague, relapsing fever, typhus or smallpox, or in the event of the spread of any other infectious disease within the frontier zone, the administrative authority responsible for the infected district shall empower the administrative authority of the frontier district (powiat, plasa,) of the other State, after the consent of these administrations has been obtained, to send an official medical officer to get into touch with the local administration for the purpose of obtaining on the spot first hand information on the epidemic.

The frontier Public Health Authorities of the two Parties shall co-operate in all matters relating to the protection of public health and each shall assist the other whenever requested to do so.

*Article 26.*

In the event of cholera appearing in the frontier zone, measures may be taken to prohibit the importation of uncooked fruit, uncooked vegetables, and milk products coming from the infected frontier districts.

*Article 27.*

Should one of the two Contracting States conclude a Sanitary Convention with another State, it undertakes to communicate to the other Party to the present Convention the text of such new Convention at the earliest possible moment.



*Article 28.*

If any dispute arising out of the application of this Convention cannot be settled by the Contracting States through diplomatic channels, these States shall undertake, by mutual agreement, to resort to the mediation of the League of Nations (Health Section).

*Article 29.*

The present Convention, which has been drawn up in the French language, shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Bucharest as soon as possible.

The Convention shall come into force thirty days after the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Should one of the Contracting States denounce this Convention, it shall nevertheless remain in force for a period of one year as from the date of the denunciation.

In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Warsaw, in duplicate, on December 20th, 1922.

(L. S.) (Signed) D<sup>r</sup> J. CANTACUZÈNE.

(L. S.) (Signed) D<sup>r</sup> W. CHODZKO.