

N° 788.

INDE ET SIAM

Echange de notes concernant la dénonciation de l'Accord Devawongse - Satow du 28 janvier-2 février 1887, relatif au commerce à la frontière birmano - siamoise. Bangkok, 6 et 11 septembre 1924.

INDIA AND SIAM

Exchange of Notes concerning the Denunciation of the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of January 28-February 2, 1887, relating to Trade across the Siam - Burma Frontier. Bangkok, September 6 and 11, 1924.

No. 788. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND SIAMESE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE DENUNCIATION OF THE DEVAWONGSE-SATOW AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 2, 1887, RELATING TO TRADE ACROSS THE SIAM-BURMA FRONTIER. BANGKOK, SEPTEMBER 6 AND 11, 1924.

*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le Ministère des Affaires étrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.
L'enregistrement de cet échange de notes a eu lieu le 16 décembre 1924.*

THE BRITISH LEGATION,
BANGKOK, 6th September, 1924.

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE,

Referring to Your Highness Note to Mr. Greg of the 17th of July last, I have the honour to inform you that I have now received a telegram from my Foreign Office stating that the Government of India greatly appreciate the friendly and helpful spirit of the Royal Siamese Government and agree that, since the latter are willing, the best course is to denounce at once the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of 1887, relating to trade across the Siam-Burma frontier.

I am therefore directed to notify to Your Highness the desire of the Government of India to denounce the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of 1887 and to request that at the expiration of three months from the date of this Note, or at such earlier date as may be acceptable to the Royal Siamese Government, it may be considered as terminated.

In communicating the above I am to state that the Government of India agree in principle to establish a Customs line, and in this matter will do everything possible to meet the views of the Royal Siamese Government. It will, however, be necessary for them to discuss with the Government of Burma the administrative difficulties of maintaining such a line along the frontier and also to pass legislation to enable them to collect land Customs duties.

Meanwhile on the expiration of the notice denouncing the Agreement, in order to protect their revenue and in the interests of trade, which is disorganised by the present situation, the Government of India will have to issue notices prohibiting the importation by land from Siam of certain portable goods which are subject to high import duties, such as matches, cigarettes and saccharine. This prohibition will be, of course, in no way directed against Siamese trade, which the Government of India have always desired to encourage for the advantage of both countries, and I am to express the hope that the Royal Siamese Government will, therefore, not misunderstand it and that they will co-operate in its enforcement.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Ministre, to renew to Your Highness the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) J. F. JOHNS,
Chargé d'Affaires.

¹ Cet échange de notes ne comporte pas de ratification.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

F. 3041/52/40.

BANGKOK, 11th September, 1924.

MONSIEUR LE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 6th September, 1924, with reference to the proposed abrogation of the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of 1887, notifying me of "the desire of the Government of India to denounce the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of 1887 and to request that at the expiration of three months from the date of this Note, or at such earlier date as may be acceptable to the Royal Siamese Government, it may be considered as terminated". You further state that "in communicating the above I am to state that the Government of India agree in principle to establish a Customs line and in this matter will do everything possible to meet the views of the Royal Siamese Government". You then go on to state that as a temporary measure during the present disorganised situation pending the establishment of a permanent Customs line, the Government of India contemplates the issue of notices prohibiting the importation by land from Siam of certain portable goods which are subject to high import duties, but that "this prohibition will be, of course, in no way directed against Siamese trade".

In reply I have the honour to inform you that my Government is happy to accept the proposal of the Government of India to denounce the Devawongse-Satow Agreement of 1887, and will be glad to consider this Agreement as terminated at the expiration of three months from the date of your letter, i.e., on 6th December, 1924, upon the understanding expressed in your letter, that "the Government of India agree in principle to establish a Customs line", and that the absolute prohibition of the importation of specified articles shall be "in no way directed against Siamese trade" and shall not be continued indefinitely but established merely as a temporary measure, pending the permanent establishment of a Customs line, during the present disorganised situation. In this latter connection would it be possible to fix some definite time-limit beyond which such absolute prohibitions as you mention would cease to operate?

In the meantime my Government will be very happy to co-operate with the Government of India by setting up Customs stations on the frontier, and by assisting in such ways as seem possible. For the purpose of such co-operation will you be kind enough to forward to me from time to time such enactments and proclamations as may be made by the Indian Government relating to this frontier trade, together with a list of the localities in which Customs stations are set up?

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires, the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed) TRAI DOS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.