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AUTRICHE ET HONGRIE

Protocole et article additionnel relatifs
au règlement de la question de la
Hongrie occidentale, signés à
Venise le 13 octobre 1921.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY

Protocol and Additional Article re-
garding the Settlement of the
Question of Western Hungary,
signed at Venice, October 13, 1921.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 254. — PROTOCOL AND ADDITIONAL ARTICLE REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF WESTERN HUNGARY ², SIGNED AT VENICE, OCTOBER 13, 1921.

French official text communicated by the Austrian Representative accredited to the Secretariat of the League of Nations. The registration of this Protocol took place on April 4, 1922.

Following on the offer of mediation made by His Excellency Marquis della Torretta, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was approved by the decision of the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris and accepted by the Governments of Austria and Hungary, the Plenipotentiaries of the two Governments met at Venice on October 11 and 12, 1921, to settle by mutual agreement the questions regarding the territories of Western Hungary assigned to Austria by virtue of the Treaties of Peace of St. Germain and Trianon.

AUSTRIA was represented by M. Jean SCHÖBER, Federal Chancellor and Director of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs ;

HUNGARY was represented by His Excellency Count Etienne BETHLEN, Prime Minister, and His Excellency Count Nicolas BANFFY, Royal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Under the presidency of His Excellency the Marquis DELLA TORRETTA, these representatives proceeded to a detailed examination of the question and agreed on the following measures which they considered necessary to assure the peaceful transference to Austria of the territory in question.

I.

Measures to be taken by the Royal Hungarian Government with a view to the pacification of Western Hungary :

The posting throughout the country of a proclamation informing the population that an equitable agreement has been concluded at Venice and inviting all Hungarians to consider it their duty as patriotic citizens to respect this agreement and to facilitate the fulfilment of the accepted conditions by the Government.

This proclamation shall likewise contain — on pain of the most severe penalties — a summons to the rebels to lay down their arms immediately, and to persons who are not nationals of Western Hungary to leave the territory without delay.

The Press shall be instructed to change its attitude in conformity with communications to be made to it regarding the agreement concluded at Venice.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² Ratified by Austria on December 28, 1921. This agreement is already in force in Hungary and Austria. From a statement communicated by the Hungarian Government to the Austrian Federal Government, the agreement in question has not, however, been submitted to the Hungarian National Assembly for approval, as, under the Hungarian Constitution, no such approval is necessary.

The Hungarian Government shall then publish a decree requiring all officials and serving or retired officers in the service of the Hungarian Government to conform to this summons within a period of ten days on pain of the most severe penalties provided by the law. An amnesty shall be promised to all such persons who have broken the laws during the insurrection but who conform to the present summons. Ordinary crimes shall be excluded from this amnesty.

A decree requiring students who have taken part in the insurrection to report to their university or school within a period of ten days. Students who fail to comply with this summons shall lose their term.

A decree proclaiming that all persons who continue to supply the rebels with assistance in money or in kind shall be punished by virtue of the provisions of the Hungarian Penal Code against illegal recruiting.

A partial change in the composition of the garrisons which constitute the present cordon.

A period of at least three weeks shall be allowed for the above-mentioned measures, but the allied Generals may reduce this period if they consider it possible to do so.

All the measures for the pacification of the country shall be carried out in agreement with the allied Generals.

In general the Hungarian Government declares that it is prepared to conform with the desires of the Principal Allied Powers to the utmost of its ability. The Hungarian Government recognises the principle that any steps upon which the Allied Governments may decide with a view to the pacification of the country are destined to ensure fulfilment of the conditions of the Treaty, and cannot therefore be regarded by the Hungarian Government as hostile acts. The representatives of the Entente at Budapest and the Commission of Generals at Sopron shall see that the measures are applied in the most rapid and efficacious manner, having special regard to the spirit of the above-mentioned measures.

II.

It is understood that the territory in question, once freed from marauding bands, will be occupied and taken over by Austria in complete tranquillity and security.

It will rest with the Commission of the Allied Generals at Sopron to decide when the pacification of the territory is an accomplished fact and when, therefore, Austria can proceed with the occupation.

The Commission of the Allied Generals at Sopron, to which an Austrian and a Hungarian Delegate are attached, will exercise the administrative power.

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs will take the necessary steps for the despatch of Allied troops to Sopron.

Eight days after the Commission of the Allied Generals has decided that the country is in a state of complete tranquillity, a plebiscite will be held in the city of Sopron and its neighbourhood.

It will rest with the Commission of Allied Generals to decide upon a procedure which will enable the plebiscite to be carried out as simply and as rapidly as possible ; with this object, the Commission will at once undertake the necessary preparations.

The plebiscite in the city of Sopron must take place before the plebiscite in the neighbouring districts, but the two plebiscites together shall determine the final result of the popular expression of opinion.

The territory in which the plebiscite is to take place is bounded as follows :—

A line starting from the Lake of Neusiedel (Fertő) at the point where the northern communal boundary of the Commune of Kroisbach (Fertőrákos) touches the lake.

From this point the frontier-line of the plebiscite area follows the above communal line to the point where that line joins the communal line of Ódenburg (Sopron) ; it follows this line to the point where the communal frontier meets the northern communal boundary of the Commune of Agendorf (Agtalva), follows this northern line to the point where it again touches the communal boundary of the city of Ódenburg (Sopron) ; from this point the boundary of the plebiscite area follows the boundary of Ódenburg (Sopron) to the point where it reaches the southern boundary of the Commune of Harkau (Harka) and follows that boundary as far as its junction with the southern communal boundary of Kohlenhof (Kophaza), follows the latter boundary to the point

where it joins the western communal boundary of Zinkendorf (Nagyeczenk), which it follows to the point where it meets the Trianon line; from this point the boundary follows the Trianon line to the point where the latter reaches the Lake of Neusiedel (Fertö).

Austria and Hungary undertake to accept the result of the plebiscite.

Eight days after the proclamation of the result of the plebiscite the territory shall be transferred to the party entitled to it.

Hungary, in principle, accepts responsibility for damages of every kind caused to Austria by the delay in the transfer of Western Hungary.

The details of these damages, together with the other financial questions relating to Western Hungary which have so far remained unsettled, shall be settled by mutual agreement within fifteen days after the transfer of the territories in question.

If this agreement has not been concluded within a second period of fifteen days, these questions shall be submitted to an Arbitration Tribunal to be set up in conformity with Article 239 of the Treaty of Trianon and the corresponding Article in the Treaty of St. Germain.

In view of the need for hastening, as far as possible, the work of the Inter-Allied Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between Austria and Hungary, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs shall approach the Conference of Ambassadors on the subject.

Austria undertakes, as far as possible, to accept the decisions of this Commission. Nevertheless, should Austria be obliged to appeal against these decisions, she declares that she will accept the decision recommended by the Council of the League of Nations.

No inhabitant of the territory ceded by Hungary to Austria may be prosecuted or molested on account of the political attitude adopted by him before the date of the final transfer of the territories in question.

For humanitarian reasons, the Austrian Government, in principle, undertakes not to dismiss, *en masse* and for political reasons, persons employed at the date of the final transfer in the ceded territory. It will make their retention in their present duties dependent upon the result of an examination of the circumstances in each particular case.

The Austrian Government, in principle agrees, to assume responsibility for pensions due to these employees; detailed provisions in this connection shall be made by special agreement between the two Governments.

Having agreed on the foregoing, the Austrian and Hungarian Plenipotentiaries undertake to use all their influence to ensure that the above-mentioned provisions shall be carried into effect in accordance with the constitutional laws of their respective countries.

(Signed) TORRETTA,

(Signed) SCHÖBER.

(Signed) BETHLEN.

(Signed) BANFFY.

Additional Article.

If, as a result of the plebiscite, the city of Ödenburg and its environs should be assigned to Hungary, the Hungarian Government undertakes to grant Austria all necessary facilities for the control of frontier traffic as regards both persons and the transport of goods on the railways which pass through the city and its neighbourhood.

Hungary shall also grant to Austria, in consideration of the payment of tolls or on any other basis which may be considered expedient, every facility for the use of the above-mentioned railways.

The details of this question shall be settled in a convention to be concluded between the two Governments.

(Signed) TORRETTA.

(Signed) SCHÖBER.

(Signed) BETHLEN.

(Signed) BANFFY.

Done in three copies at Venice on October 13, 1921.

(L. S.) TORRETTA.

(L. S.) SCHÖBER.

(L. S.) BETHLEN.

(L. S.) BANFFY.