

N° 209.

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ALLEMAGNE ET FRANCE

Arrangement provisoire relatif aux  
ponts sur le Rhin, signé à Stras-  
bourg, le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1920.

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GERMANY AND FRANCE

Provisional Agreement relating to  
the Rhine Bridges, signed at  
Strasburg, July 1, 1920.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 209. — PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GERMANY<sup>2</sup> AND FRANCE RELATING TO THE RHINE BRIDGES<sup>3</sup>, SIGNED AT STRASBURG JULY 1, 1920.

*French official text communicated by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs and by the "Service Français de la Société des Nations". The registration of this Agreement took place on January 9, 1922.*

Article 66 of the Peace Treaty<sup>4</sup> signed at Versailles June 28, 1919, having awarded to France the ownership of the bridges now in existence over the Rhine between Alsace and Baden, the French Government and the German Government have agreed to the following provisions .

*Article 1.*

The maintenance of the bridges, which has to be undertaken by the French State, in accordance with the Treaty of Peace, will extend, with effect from the day on which they are taken over by France, as regards fixed bridges, as far as the eastern edge of the foundation of the buttress on the Baden shore ; and, as regards boat-bridges, up to and including the moorings on the Baden shore.

The stores of materials and tools required for the maintenance of the bridges will be handed over at the same time as the latter. The German Government shall first put these stores in the same state of repair as they were in July 1914.

Until such time as dwellings, sheds and workshops have been constructed on the left bank, in the proximity of the five boat-bridges which have hitherto been maintained by Baden, the German State shall lease to the French Administration the sheds and workshops erected on the right bank ; and also the bridge-keepers' houses situated on that bank, complete houses being handed over if possible and, if not, at least such parts of the houses as are necessary for the accommodation of the French bridge-keepers .

*Article 2.*

The French State will have due regard to the provisions of the laws of Germany or Baden concerning the establishment on the Baden shore of the scaffoldings and installations required for the works connected with the upkeep of these bridges, without, however, thereby prejudicing the rights conferred on the French Government by Article 358 of the Treaty of Versailles.

The French State will further be entitled to carry out on the Baden shore any works for the extension or shortening of the bridges of boats which are rendered necessary by changes in the level of the river ; it will further be entitled to maintain the piles required for such extensions and the

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

<sup>2</sup> See foot-note Vol. II, page 60 of this Series.

<sup>3</sup> Ratifications exchanged on November 20, 1920.

<sup>4</sup> See foot-note 4 page 47 of this volume.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

temporary foot-bridges which may be required in consequence of such works. Any installations of this nature which already exist shall be handed over to the French State at the same time as the bridges.

The German State shall grant French employees and workmen the right of access to the Baden shore for the purpose of carrying out the above-mentioned works. The names of the employees, of the workmen permanently employed, and of the workshop foremen accompanying the men engaged for casual labour, shall be communicated to the competent German Sub-Prefect's office (Bezirksamt), which will furnish them with a pass which they must carry with them when crossing to the Baden shore.

*Article 3.*

The following matters are reserved for subsequent negotiations: the question of expenses incurred for the repair of the bridges and of their equipment before they are handed over; the question of expenditure arising out of maintenance work carried out before this date; questions regarding rights of ownership and rent; and questions regarding the bridge-keepers' houses, the workshops, and sheds situated on the right bank of the river.

*Article 4.*

As regards any construction of new bridges or any essential alterations in the bridges now existing, agreements shall be concluded, in advance, between the French and German Governments.

*Article 5.*

Regulations regarding police and traffic in connection with the bridges will be issued by the French authorities. They shall be communicated in advance to the competent German Sub-Prefects (Bezirksamt); they may be discussed by direct correspondence between these Sub-Prefects and the French authorities from whom the former receive them.

*Article 6.*

Until such time as the limits of French and German sovereignty shall have been definitely laid down, the arrangements for police and security shall be undertaken, throughout the entire length of the bridges, by the French police, who will alone have access to these bridges.

*Article 7.*

Breaches of police regulations regarding the bridges or roadway shall be within the jurisdiction of the French courts, no matter in what part of the bridge the offence may have been committed.

Such breaches of regulations shall not be regarded as justifying summary arrest of the offenders on the eastern half of the bridge unless they are in the act of committing the offence and are suspected of intending to escape or in case they cannot be immediately identified.

*Article 8.*

Ordinary offences committed on the eastern portions of the bridges (with the exception of offences against French police in the execution of their duty) shall be within the jurisdiction of the German authorities.

The French police shall communicate to the competent German authorities the statements of charges drawn up in connection with the offences referred to in the present article ; if an arrest has been made the offender shall be immediately handed over to the nearest German police officer, constable, or customs official, who will be informed, at the same time, of the offence alleged to have been committed.

*Article 9.*

Each State will exercise customs and passport control on its own bank of the river.

*Article 10.*

The application of the above provisions in no way prejudices the rights of the two States as laid down by the Treaty of Versailles ; such provisions cannot be put forward as implying the abandonment of any of those rights.

*Article 11.*

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Baden-Baden at the earliest possible date.

The present Convention shall come into force 15 days after the exchange of ratifications. It shall remain in force for six months. In case either of the Contracting Parties shall not have notified, within three months before the expiration of the above period, its intention to denounce the Convention, the said Convention shall continue to have binding effect until the expiration of three months from the day on which it shall have been denounced by either of the Contracting Parties.

Done at Baden-Baden, July 1, 1920.

(L. S.) (Signed) RAYMOND BRUGÈRE.

(L. S.) (Signed) GERHARD KÖPKE.