

N° 2930.

---

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE,  
BOLIVIE,  
BRÉSIL, CHILI, PARAGUAY,  
PÉROU ET URUGUAY

Convention de police. Signée à  
Buenos-Ayres, le 29 février 1920.

---

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,  
BOLIVIA,  
BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY,  
PERU AND URUGUAY

Police Convention. Signed at Buenos  
Aires, February 29, 1920.

<sup>1</sup> TRANSLATION.

No. 2930. — POLICE CONVENTION. SIGNED AT BUENOS AYRES,  
FEBRUARY 29, 1920.

---

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, BOLIVIA, THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY, PERU and URUGUAY, on the initiative of the first named, decided to hold a police conference for the purpose of agreeing on measures for social defence with the object of making the relations between their respective police services if possible even closer; and they designated the following as their representatives at the said conference:

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC:

Dr. Elpidio GONZÁLEZ, Dr. Miguel L. DENOVI, and don Francisco LAGUARDA;

THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA:

Dr. Juan Z. SALINAS LOZADA;

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL:

Dr. Francisco Eulalio DO NASCIMENTO E SILVA, junior, and Major D. Carlos DA SILVA REIS (Secretary);

THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE:

Dr. Luis Manuel RODRÍGUEZ and Dr. Oscar Honorato CIENFUEGOS;

THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY:

Dr. Víctor ABENTE HAEDO and don Antonio MANZONI;

THE REPUBLIC OF PERU:

Dr. Humberto FERNÁNDEZ DÁVILA;

THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY:

Don Tácito HERRERA and don Carlos MASCARÓ REISSIG;

Who, meeting in congress in the city of Buenos Aires, the capital of the Argentine Republic, after having held conferences and discussions on this subject at the Central Police Department on February 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, agreed on the provisions and conclusions which follow:

*Article I.*

The contracting countries permanently undertake to send one another particulars of:

(a) Attempts to commit or the committing of anarchical or similar acts, whether collective or individual, designed to overthrow the social order, and any other movements whatsoever which could be regarded as subversive or may affect the said social order;

---

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

(b) Newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, pictures, prints, or handbills, or any other kind of publication connected with propaganda of the character referred to above, which may concern one of the Contracting Parties. The publications in question shall be forwarded with the information communicated ;

(c) Legal or administrative measures connected with the prevention and suppression of the above-mentioned movements ;

(d) Conspiracies to commit or the committing of offences against the ordinary law likely to concern the other Contracting Parties, the notification being accompanied by all data and information necessary for forming an opinion on the case ;

(e) Individuals who are dangerous to society ;

(f) Respectable persons who make a request to that effect ; and

(g) Corpses of unknown persons, such information to be accompanied by finger-prints.

#### Article 2.

For the purpose of paragraph (e) of the previous Article, the following shall be regarded as dangerous persons :

(a) Any individual who has been proved to have participated more than once, as the offender or as an accessory before or after the fact, in offences against property or other offences of a similar character, and any person who has no legitimate means of support and lives with habitual offenders, or makes use of instruments or articles notoriously designed for committing offences against property ;

(b) Any person who has been implicated on one occasion, as the offender or as an accessory before or after the fact, in a case of coining or forging securities or scrip ;

(c) Any person who has been guilty of serious personal violence on more than one occasion ;

(d) Any alien, or any national who has been abroad, participating in any offence against property or persons, should the manner in which the offence is committed, the motive, or other circumstances, give reason to presume that the said person's past in the country from which he comes has been unsatisfactory ;

(e) Persons who habitually and for purposes of gain engage in the traffic in women ;

(f) Persons who habitually incite others to overthrow the social order by means of offences against property or persons or against the authorities ;

(g) Persons who are habitual agitators or incite persons by coercion, violence, or force, to interfere with freedom of labour or to attack property or institutions.

#### Article 3.

The information referred to under (e), (f), and (g) of Article 1 shall, when the case requires, include : finger-prints taken in accordance with the Vucetich classification ; parentage or personal particulars ; a morphological description according to the " Province of Buenos Aires " system ; information as to previous convictions and conduct ; and a photograph.

The finger-prints shall be reproduced on a card or slip of 20 × 9 cm., and the other information shall be supplied on sheets attached ; on all of them the name and register number of the person to whom they refer shall be mentioned.

(a) The personal particulars shall include : surname and Christian names and aliases ; nicknames ; surnames and Christian names of parents whenever possible ; nationality ; province or department and place of birth ; date of birth ; civil status ; profession, education, and duration of residence.

(b) The morphological description shall include special marks and scars, preferably those visible in ordinary life.

(c) Information as to previous convictions shall include proceedings taken against the person and sentences, and the category in which the individual is placed in criminal slang.

(d) Two photographs shall be taken of the face, one full-face and the other in profile, on 9 × 13 plates with a reduction to one-seventh of natural size according to the Bertillon system.

#### *Article 4.*

The exchange of information referred to in the preceding Articles shall take place whenever any Contracting Party has reason to suppose that the information might for any reason be useful to any other Contracting Party.

Nevertheless, for the purpose of gradually compiling an International Information Register, a duplicate of the information shall always be sent to the Argentine Government, even when it does not concern the latter.

#### *Article 5.*

Information as to acts or persons connected with political offences and lawful labour movements involved in the struggle between capital and labour shall not be included in the said exchange of information.

#### *Article 6.*

The Contracting Parties shall acknowledge receipt of the information and in their turn supply information, if any exist at the receiving Office, with regard to the acts or persons in question ; they shall always mention the register number of the said information.

#### *Article 7.*

The Contracting Parties shall inform each other as soon as possible of the departure or expulsion of the dangerous individuals referred to in this Convention, irrespective of their country of destination.

#### *Article 8.*

The Contracting Parties shall supply facilities and give their co-operation to the officials or agents of the police who have to watch or search for an offender or to carry out criminal investigations or other activities in connection with their official duties outside their country.

The said facilities and co-operation shall consist in the fact that the police of the country to which application is made shall carry out all formalities and take all action which, within their legal and administrative powers, should or could be carried out if the offence or act in respect of which application is made had taken place within the territory ; and with regard to the prosecution of offenders, the police shall take the necessary action to ensure that the person concerned is available until the request for extradition concerning that person has been made, so that it may be possible to detain or apprehend him.

*Article 9.*

In order to be able to apply for facilities and co-operation, the police officials or agents mentioned in the preceding Article must prove their identity and the duty with which they are entrusted by one of the following means :

(a) A certificate or note from the Chief of Police of the capital of the Republic which makes the application ;

(b) A similar document from any other official of the same service outside the capital whose signature is legalised or certified by the consul of the nation to which application is made ;

(c) Failing such documents, any other document which, in the judgment of the authorities of the country to which application is made, is provisionally sufficient pending the obtaining of the necessary documents to attest the authenticity of the credentials presented or the identity of the person and the nature of the duties of the official making the application.

*Article 10.*

The Contracting Parties shall take steps to ensure that every respectable person shall be provided with an identity card or certificate made out in accordance with the dactyloscopic system ; besides protecting its holder from possible annoyance, this document will be a useful source of personal information in many circumstances.

*Article 11.*

The absolutely confidential treatment of the information forwarded or exchanged is an essential condition of the present Convention, and its use shall be strictly limited to the police purposes defined in No. V of the Act of the Second Session of the Inter-Police Conference of 1905.

*Article 12.*

This Convention is of an administrative character, and the information and data to be exchanged in compliance with it, and all other obligations involved thereby, shall be restricted to those which are allowed by the laws and regulations of each country.

*Article 13.*

The minutes of the meetings held by the delegates shall be regarded as forming an integral part of the present Convention, and may be used to elucidate the intention and scope of its provisions. Similarly, and for the same purpose, the minutes of the Inter-Police Conference held at Buenos-Aires in October 1905 shall also be incorporated in the present Convention.

*Article 14.*

The Governments of other countries not parties to the present Convention may accede to it by notifying any of the contracting Governments, which in its turn shall inform the other signatories.

Such accession shall not be prevented by the fact that the country acceding has adopted systems of personal description or identification different from those contemplated by the present Convention. In such case the provisions of Article 12 shall apply.

*Article 15.*

This Convention shall enter into force as the various Governments ratify it and communicate their ratification to the Contracting Parties.

*Article 16.*

The obligations laid down in the present Convention as between the Contracting Parties shall be carried out by the Chief of Police of the capital of each of them, who shall communicate direct with the Chiefs of Police of the other countries for all purposes mentioned in the present Convention.

*Article 17.*

The present Convention shall be printed in seven copies in Spanish and Portuguese, which shall be signed and all the pages initialled by the delegates.

In faith whereof we sign the present Convention at the Central Department of Police, Buenos Aires, capital of the Argentine Republic, on the twenty-ninth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

Elpidio GONZÁLEZ.

Miguel L. DENOVI.

Francisco LAGUARDA.

Juan Z. SALINAS LOZADA.

Francisco Eulalio DO NASCIMENTO E SILVA filho.

Luis Manuel RODRÍGUEZ.

Oscar H. CIENFUEGOS.

Victor ABENTE HAEDO.

Antonio MANZONI.

H. FERNÁNDEZ DÁVILA.

Tácito HERRERA.

Carlos MASCARÓ REISSIG.