

N° 3414.

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ROUMANIE,  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES  
SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES,  
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE,  
TURQUIE, YOUGOSLAVIE

Convention de définition de l'agres-  
sion, avec annexe. Signées à Lon-  
dres, le 4 juillet 1933.

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ROUMANIA,  
UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA,  
TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA

Convention for the Definition of  
Aggression, and Annex. Signed at  
London, July 4th, 1933.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3414. — CONVENTION <sup>2</sup> FOR THE DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION BETWEEN ROUMANIA, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TURKEY AND YUGOSLAVIA. SIGNED AT LONDON, JULY 4TH, 1933.

*French official text communicated by the President of the Permanent Council of the Little Entente and by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place April 26th, 1934.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA ;

Being desirous of consolidating the peaceful relations existing between their countries ;

Mindful of the fact that the Briand-Kellogg Pact, of which they are signatories, prohibits all aggression ;

Deeming it necessary, in the interest of the general security, to define aggression as specifically as possible in order to obviate any pretext whereby it might be justified ;

Noting that all States have an equal right to independence, security, the defence of their territories and the free development of their institutions ;

Desirous, in the interest of the general peace, to ensure to all peoples the inviolability of the territory of their countries ;

Judging it expedient, in the interest of the general peace, to bring into force, as between their countries, precise rules defining aggression, until such time as those rules shall become universal ;

Have decided, with these objects, to conclude the present Convention and have duly authorised for the purpose :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA :

M. Jan Garrigue MASARYK, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA :

M. Nicolas TITULESCU, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

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

<sup>2</sup> Ratifications deposited in Moscow :

ROUMANIA . . . . .	} February 17th, 1934.
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS . . . . .	
CZECHOSLOVAKIA . . . . .	
YUGOSLAVIA . . . . .	
TURKEY . . . . .	
	} March 23rd, 1934.

Came into force February 17th, 1934.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY :

Mehmet MUNIR Bey, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in London ;

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS :

M. Maxime LITVINOFF, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA :

Dr. Georges DIOURITCH, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in London ;

Who have agreed upon the following provisions :

*Article I.*

Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to accept in its relations with each of the other Parties, from the date of the entry into force of the present Convention, the definition of aggression as explained in the Report, dated May 24th, 1933, of the Committee on Security Questions (Politis Report) to the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments, which Report was made in consequence of the Soviet delegation's proposal.

*Article II.*

Accordingly, the aggressor in an international conflict shall, subject to the agreements in force between the Parties to the dispute, be considered to be that State which is the first to commit any of the following actions :

1. Declaration of war upon another State ;
2. Invasion by its armed forces, with or without a declaration of war, of the territory of another State ;
3. Attack by its land, naval or air forces, with or without a declaration of war, on the territory, vessels or aircraft of another State ;
4. Naval blockade of the coasts or ports of another State ;
5. Provision of support to armed bands formed in its territory which have invaded the territory of another State, or refusal, notwithstanding the request of the invaded State, to take, in its own territory, all the measures in its power to deprive those bands of all assistance or protection.

*Article III.*

No political, military, economic or other consideration may serve as an excuse or justification for the aggression referred to in Article II. (For examples, see Annex.)

*Article IV.*

The present Convention is open for the accession of all other nations. Accession shall confer the same rights and impose the same obligations as initial signature. Such accession shall be notified to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which shall forthwith inform the other signatories.

*Article V.*

The present Convention shall be ratified by each of the High Contracting Parties in conformity with its laws.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited by each of the High Contracting Parties with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

As soon as the instruments of ratification have been deposited by two of the High Contracting Parties, the present Convention shall come into force as between those two Parties. It shall come into force as regards all the other High Contracting Parties according as the latter deposit in their turn their instruments of ratification.

Each deposit of instruments of ratification shall immediately be notified by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to all the signatories of the present Convention.

*Article VI.*

The present Convention has been signed in five copies, of which each of the High Contracting Parties has received one.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in London, July 4th, 1933.

(L. S.) Jan MASARYK.

(L. S.) N. TITULESCU.

(L. S.) Mehmet MÜNİR.

(L. S.) Maxime LITVINOFF.

(L. S.) G. DIOURITCH.

## ANNEX

## TO ARTICLE III OF THE CONVENTION RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION.

The High Contracting Parties signatories of the Convention relating to the definition of aggression,

Desiring, subject to the express reservation that the absolute validity of the rule laid down in Article III of that Convention shall be in no way restricted, to furnish certain indications for determining the aggressor,

Declare that no act of aggression within the meaning of Article II of that Convention can be justified on either of the following grounds, among others :

A. *The internal condition of a State,*

*for example :*

its political, economic or social structure ; alleged defects in its administration ; disturbances due to strikes, revolutions, counter-revolutions or civil war.

B. *The international conduct of a State,*

*for example :*

the violation or threatened violation of the material or moral rights or interests of a foreign State or its nationals ; the rupture of diplomatic or economic relations ; economic or financial boycotts ; disputes relating to economic, financial or other obligations towards foreign States ; frontier incidents not forming any of the cases of aggression specified in Article II.

The High Contracting Parties further agree to recognise that the present Convention can never legitimate any violations of international law that may be implied in the circumstances comprised in the above list.

(L. S.) Jan MASARYK.

(L. S.) N. TITULESCU.

(L. S.) Mehmet MÜNİR.

(L. S.) Maxime LITVINOFF.

(L. S.) G. DIOURITCH.