

No. 8696

**ARGENTINA
and
HOLY SEE**

Agreement. Signed at Buenos Aires, on 10 October 1966

Official texts: Spanish and Italian.

Registered by Argentina on 28 July 1967.

**ARGENTINE
et
SAINT-SIÈGE**

Accord. Signé à Buenos Aires, le 10 octobre 1966

Textes officiels espagnol et italien.

Enregistré par l'Argentine le 28 juillet 1967.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8696. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOLY SEE AND
THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT BUENOS
AIRES, ON 10 OCTOBER 1966

The Holy See, reaffirming the principles of Vatican Ecumenical Council II, and the Argentine State, prompted by the principle of freedom repeatedly stated in the National Constitution and in order to bring up to date the legal position of the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church, which the Federal Government supports, have decided to conclude an Agreement.

To this end, His Holiness the Supreme Pontiff Paul VI has appointed as his Plenipotentiary His Excellency the Very Reverend Monsignor Umberto Mozzoni, Apostolic Nuncio in Argentina, and His Excellency the President of Argentina, Lieutenant-General Juan Carlos Onganía, has appointed as his Plenipotentiary His Excellency Dr. Nicanor Costa Mendez, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Religious Worship.

The Plenipotentiaries, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, agree upon the following:

Article I

The Argentine State shall recognize and guarantee the right of the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church to free and full exercise of its spiritual power, free and public practice of its worship and jurisdiction within its sphere of competence, for the purpose of achieving its specific aims.

Article II

The Holy See may establish new ecclesiastical districts and change the boundaries of existing ones or abolish them, if deemed necessary or advantageous for the assistance of the faithful and development of its organization.

Before establishing a new Diocese or Prelature or making other changes in diocesan districts, the Holy See shall, in confidence, inform the Government of its intentions and plans in order to ascertain whether the Government has any legitimate observations to make, except in the event of negligible territorial rectifications required for the well-being of souls.

¹ Came into force on 28 January 1967, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification at the Vatican, in accordance with article VII.

The Holy See shall, at its convenience, officially inform the Government of any new sub-districts established and boundaries changed or abolished so that the Government may give them recognition for administrative purposes.

The Government shall also be notified of changes in the boundaries of existing Dioceses.

Article III

The appointment of Archbishops and Bishops shall fall within the competence of the Holy See.

Before appointing Archbishops and residential Bishops, Prelates or Coadjutors having right of succession, the Holy See shall communicate the name of the person chosen to the Argentine Government in order to ascertain whether there is any objection of a general political nature to him.

The Argentine Government shall give its answer within thirty days. Once that period has elapsed, silence on the part of the Government shall be interpreted as signifying there are no objections to the appointment. All such proceedings shall be conducted in the strictest confidence.

All matters relating to the Military Vicariate shall continue to be governed by the Convention of 28 June 1957.

Residential Archbishops and Bishops and Coadjutors having the right of succession shall be Argentine citizens.

Article IV

The Holy See shall be recognized to have the right to publish in the Argentine Republic any provisions relating to government of the Church and to communicate and maintain correspondence freely with Bishops, the clergy and the faithful in its noble ministry, as may likewise be done by the latter in regard to the Apostolic See.

Bishops and other ecclesiastical authorities shall also enjoy the same right in relation to their priests and parishioners.

Article V

The Argentine Episcopate may call to Argentina any orders, male and female religious congregations and lay priests it deems necessary for improving spiritual assistance to and Christian education of the people.

At the request of the local Ordinary, the Argentine Government, acting at all times in accordance with the relevant laws, shall furnish foreign religious and ecclesiastical personnel with a residence permit and citizenship card.

Article VI

In the event of any observations or objections by the Argentine Government in accordance with articles II and III, the High Contracting Parties shall seek suitable means of reaching agreement; they shall likewise resolve in a friendly manner any disputes regarding interpretation and application of the provisions of the present Agreement.

Article VII

The present Agreement, the Italian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall enter into force upon exchange of the Instruments of Ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed and affixed their seals to the present Agreement, in duplicate, at Buenos Aires, on 10 October 1966.

Umberto MOZZONI

Nicanor COSTA MENDEZ