

ARBITRATION CONVENTION BETWEEN THE ESTHONIAN AND LATVIAN GOVERNMENTS, SIGNED AT WALK, MARCH 22, 1920

Convention made between representatives of the Esthonian and Latvian Governments at a meeting held in Walk on March 22, under the chairmanship of Mr. TALLENTS, the British Commissioner.

(1) Both Governments agree to entrust the final determination of the frontier between their territories and the settlement of any questions arising directly out of that determination to a joint Commission consisting of two members appointed by each Government together with a chairman who shall be the British Commissioner or, if he is unable to act, a British subject mutually agreed upon by both parties.

(2) This Commission shall also be the Commission to determine any questions arising out of the application of paragraph 7 of the agreement made between the two Governments on July 21st, 1919.

(3) So far as possible all questions to be determined by this Commission under this Convention, shall be settled by agreement between the representatives of the two countries; but in default of agreement upon any point the decision of the chairman shall be final and will be loyally accepted by both Governments.

(4) In arriving at their decision the Commission will take into account ethnographical and historical principles and the state-political interests of each party (military, strategical, economical and communicational) and the interests of the local population. They may take such steps as they think necessary to obtain the evidence required to enable them to arrive at a just decision. Provided that, in any district in which it is decided to hold a plebiscite, steps shall be taken on lines approved by the Commission to neutralize the administration in such a manner as will prevent any undue influence being exercised by the authorities of either party upon the population taking part.

(5) This agreement requires the ratification of the two Governments to be given within fourteen days of this signature.

(6) The expenses of the Commission will be borne in equal parts by the two Governments.

Note: In default of agreement in the matter of Walk, it is ruled by the British Chairman of the meeting after a careful review of the case presented by both sides that, during any plebiscite held in Walk:

(1) a British Officer shall be posted by the Chairman of the Commission in the Walk station number one to secure that its administration is not used for political purposes during the time of the plebiscite.

(2) the present administration of the station of Walk No. 1 shall not be changed during the plebiscite.

(Signed) S. G. TALLENTS.
(Chairman)

(Signed) BIRK,
(Signed) KINDRAL MAJOR LAIDONER.
(Signed) Z. A. MEIEROVICS.
(Signed) J. BALODIS.

Pour copie conforme:
le Chef du Cabinet du Ministre
des Affaires Etrangères
de Latvie.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, Vol. 2, 1920, p.188-189.]