

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF ITALY AND THE
KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES,
CONCERNING THE ORTHODOX SERB COMMUNITY OF TRIESTE.
SIGNED AT NETTUNO, JULY 20, 1925**

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, recognising the expediency of determining, by means of new provisions which shall entirely supersede the Agreement signed at Rome on July 2, 1924, the status of the Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste with the object of giving effect in this matter to the provisions agreed upon at Rome on January 27, 1924, have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY:

M. Benito MUSSOLINI, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES:

M. Voislav ANTONIEVITCH, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary accredited to His Majesty the King of Italy;

M. Ottokár RYBÁR, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1.

Complete spiritual independence shall be guaranteed to the Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste. The Orthodox Serb Church and the parish of Trieste shall, as regards spiritual, ecclesiastical and hierarchical matters, be under the authority of the Bishop of Zara and, through him, under the supreme ecclesiastical Orthodox Serb authority.

Article 2.

The Royal Italian Government shall grant the Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste and its existing institute the status of national Serb-Croat-Slovene religious institutions. In consequence, the rights and supervision hitherto exercised by the Royal Italian Government in accordance with the statutes and laws in force shall be transferred in virtue of the present Agreement to the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, without prejudice to the rights deriving from the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Italy over the territory in which the said Community has its seat.

Article 3.

The Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste shall be guaranteed complete independence in the administration of its property.

Article 4.

As regards the increase of its capital, the Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste shall, in the same way as other foreign corporate bodies, be subject to the legal provisions in force in this matter within the Kingdom of Italy. It shall, however, be granted the right to acquire property freely by succession.

Article 5.

The Orthodox Serb Community of Trieste shall modify its statutes so as to bring them into harmony with the provisions of the present Agreement. The statutes thus modified shall be submitted to the Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes for its approval and shall then be communicated to the Royal Italian Government.

Article 6.

The present Agreement shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Rome.

It shall come into force on the date of the exchange of ratifications.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Nettuno in duplicate, the twentieth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five.

For the Kingdom of Italy:

Benito MUSSOLINI.

For the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes:

V. ANTONIEVITCH.

Dr. RYBÁR.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, 1928, vol. 83, p. 267-269.]