

**TREATY OF FRIENDLY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FRANCE AND  
THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES.  
SIGNED AT PARIS, NOVEMBER 11, 1927**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, being equally desirous of maintaining in Europe that state of peace and political stability, which is essential for the social advancement and economic prosperity both of France and of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom;

Being firmly attached to the principle of respect for international undertakings, a principle which has been solemnly confirmed by the Covenant of the League of Nations;

Being desirous, within the framework of the aforesaid Covenant of ensuring, in advance, the adoption of a common attitude in the event of the order established by the treaties which they have signed being endangered;

And being convinced that it is the duty of modern Governments to prevent a return to war by providing for the pacific settlement of any disputes which may arise between them;

Have resolved, for this purpose, to give each other renewed pledges of peace, understanding and friendship, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries the following:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC;  
M. Aristide BRIAND, Deputy, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES;  
Dr. V. MARINKOVITCH, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

***Article I.***

France and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes reciprocally undertake to refrain from all attacks or invasions directed against one another and in no circumstances to resort to war against one another.

Nevertheless, this stipulation shall not apply:

- (1) To the exercise of the right of legitimate defence, that is to say, the right of resisting a violation of the undertaking given in paragraph 1 of the present Article;
- (2) To action undertaken in application of Article 16 of the Covenant of the League of Nations;
- (3) To action undertaken in virtue of a decision by the Assembly or Council of the League of Nations, or in application of paragraph 7 of Article 15 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, provided that, in the latter case, such action is directed against a State which was the first to attack.

### ***Article II.***

Taking into consideration their respective obligations under Article I of the present Treaty, France and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertake to settle by pacific means and in the following manner all questions whatever which may divide them and which it may not have been possible to settle by the normal methods of diplomacy; all questions regarding which the Parties may be in dispute as to their respective rights shall be submitted to judges, with whose decisions the Parties undertake to comply; all other questions shall be submitted to a Conciliation Commission, and if the arrangement proposed by that Commission is not accepted by both Parties, the question shall be brought before the Council of the League of Nations, which shall decide in accordance with Article 15 of the League Covenant.

The procedure in regard to these methods of pacific settlement is laid down in special conventions which have been signed on this day.

### ***Article III.***

The Government of the French Republic and the Royal Government of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom undertake to give joint consideration, subject to any resolutions adopted by the Council or Assembly of the League of Nations, to questions which are of such a nature as to endanger the external security of France or the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, or to impair the order established by treaties which they have both signed.

### ***Article IV.***

If, in spite of the sincerely pacific intentions of the French and Serb-Croat-Slovene Governments, either France or the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes should be attacked without provocation, the two Governments shall, without delay confer with one another as to the measures which each shall take, within the framework of the Covenant of the League of Nations, in order to safeguard their legitimate national interests and to uphold the order established by the treaties of which they are both signatories.

### ***Article V.***

The High Contracting Parties agree to take counsel together in the event of any modification, or attempted modification, of the political status of European countries and, subject to any resolutions which may be adopted in such case by the Council or Assembly of the League of Nations, to come to an understanding as to the attitude which they should respectively observe in such an eventuality.

### ***Article VI.***

The High Contracting Parties declare that nothing in this Treaty is to be interpreted as contradicting the stipulations of the treaties at present in force which have been signed by France or the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and which concern their policy in Europe. They undertake to exchange views on questions affecting European policy in order to co-ordinate their efforts in the cause of peace, and for this purpose to communicate to each other henceforward any treaties or agreements which they may conclude with third Powers on the same subject. Such treaties or agreements shall invariably be directed to aims which are compatible with the maintenance of peace.

### ***Article VII.***

Nothing in the present Treaty may be interpreted or applied in such a way as to prejudice the rights and obligations of the High Contracting Parties under the Covenant of the League of Nations.

**Article VIII.**

The present Treaty shall be communicated for registration to the League of Nations in conformity with Article 18 of the Covenant.

**Article IX.**

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Paris as soon as possible.

It shall enter into force immediately upon the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for five years, after which it may be renewed in virtue of previous notice, which must have been duly given at the end of the fourth year, and for a period to be determined.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries duly authorised for this purpose, have signed the present Treaty and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in Paris in duplicate, November 11, 1927.

(L. S.) (Signed) A. BRIAND.

(L. S.) (Signed) Dr. V. MARINKOVITCH.

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