

TREATY OF DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE BETWEEN ALBANIA AND ITALY. SIGNED AT TIRANA, NOVEMBER 22, 1927

ITALY and ALBANIA, being desirous of solemnly re-affirming and strengthening the solidarity which happily exists between the two States, and of devoting all their efforts to the removal of any causes which might disturb the peace between them, and between them and other States,

Recognising the benefits of close co-operation between the two States,

And once more confirming the fact that the interests and the security of each are bound up with those of the other,

Have decided to conclude a defensive alliance by this Treaty, with the sole object of stabilising the natural relations which happily exist between the two States and thus ensuring a policy of peaceful development,

and have accordingly appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY:

His Excellency M. Ugo SOLA, Knight of the Order of Sts. Maurice and Lazarus, Knight Grand Commander of the Order of Skanderbeg, etc., etc., His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Albania;

His EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALBANIAN REPUBLIC:

His Excellency Ilias Bey VRIONI, Knight Grand Commander of the Orders of Skanderbeg and of the Crown of Italy, etc., etc., His Minister for Foreign Affairs;

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

Article 1.

All previous Treaties concluded between the two High Contracting Parties since the admission of Albania to the League of Nations shall be exactly and faithfully observed within the limits laid down in the text of the same, so that there shall be sincere and perfect friendship between the two peoples and between the two Governments, and that each shall assist the other, it being understood that each of the High Contracting Parties shall uphold the interests and advantages of the other with the same zeal as it displays in upholding its own.

Article 2.

Between Italy, of the one part, and Albania, of the other part, there shall be for twenty years an unalterable defensive alliance, which may be denounced during the eighteenth or nineteenth year of its duration. Should no such denunciation take place, the alliance shall be understood to be renewed by tacit consent for a like period. The two High Contracting Parties shall employ all their diligence and all the means at their command to ensure the security of their respective countries, and to defend and safeguard each other against any attack from without.

Article 3.

As a result of the undertakings given in the foregoing Articles, the two High Contracting Parties shall act in concert to maintain peace and tranquillity, and, should one of them be threatened with war which it has not provoked, the other Party shall employ the most effectual means at its command, not only to prevent hostilities, but also to secure just satisfaction for the threatened Party.

Article 4.

Should every means of conciliation have been exhausted without avail, each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to throw in its lot with the other, and to place at the disposal of its ally all military, financial, and other resources which may be of assistance in terminating the conflict, should such assistance be called for by the threatened Party.

Article 5.

In any case covered by Article 4, the two High Contracting Parties undertake not to conclude or enter into negotiations for a peace, armistice, or truce except by common consent.

Article 6.

The present Treaty has been signed in four original copies, two in Italian and two in Albanian, both texts being authentic.

Article 7.

The present Treaty shall be ratified, and shall thereafter be registered with the League of Nations. The ratifications shall be exchanged at Rome.

Done at Tirana, this twenty-second day of November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven (1927).

Ugo SOLA.
Ilias VRIONI.

ANNEX I.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE ROYAL ITALIAN MINISTER AT DURAZZO TO HIS
EXCELLENCY THE ALBANIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.**

TIRANA, November 22, 1927.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

With reference to the Treaty of Defensive Alliance signed by us this day, more especially in the contingency – which we trust will not arise – of Article 4 of that Treaty having to be brought into operation, the Italian Government is most anxious to give the Albanian Government the assurances and elucidations which follow:

“If, after the failure of all attempts to ward off by conciliatory methods a threat from any third State against one of the two allied States, the latter should find itself the victim of an unprovoked attack and should be compelled to call for military assistance from its ally in defence of the territory attacked, the supreme command of the allied forces will be entrusted, in Albania, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Albanian forces, and in Italy, to the

Commander-in-Chief of the Italian forces. Upon the signing of peace, the allied forces which have come to the assistance of the other State will return to their own country by using their own resources within the period allowed them by the Commander-in-Chief under whom they have served in the allied territory.”

This letter forms an integral part of the Treaty of Defensive Alliance between Italy and Albania, and is to be ratified and thereafter registered with the League of Nations conjointly with that Treaty.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.

Ugo SOLA,
Italian Minister.

To His Excellency
M. Ilias Vrioni,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania,
Tirana.

ANNEX II.
**HIS EXCELLENCY THE ALBANIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO HIS
EXCELLENCY THE ROYAL ITALIAN MINISTER AT DURAZZO.**

TIRANA, November 22, 1927.

SIR,

I have the honour to take note of the letter of this day's date in which Your Excellency is good enough to give the Albanian Government certain elucidations and assurances with reference to the Treaty of Defensive Alliance signed by us this day, and more especially with regard to the contingency – which we trust will not arise – of Article 4 of that Treaty having to be brought into operation. I must offer you my heartiest thanks for these spontaneous declarations made by you in the name of the Royal Government, and I have pleasure in giving the Italian Government the following identical assurances in the name of the Albanian Government:

“If, after the failure of all attempts to ward off by conciliatory methods a threat from any third State against one of the two allied States, the latter should find itself the victim of an unprovoked attack and should be compelled to call for military assistance from its ally in defence of the territory attacked, the supreme command of the allied forces will be entrusted, in Albania, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Albanian forces, and in Italy, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian forces. Upon the signing of peace, the allied forces which have come to the assistance of the other State will return to their own country by using their own resources within the period allowed them by the Commander-in-Chief under whom they have served in the allied territory.”

This letter forms an integral part of the Treaty of Defensive Alliance between Italy and Albania, and is to be ratified and thereafter registered with the League of Nations conjointly with that Treaty.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.

Ilias VRIONI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

To His Excellency
M. Ugo Sola,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Italy,
Tirana.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 69, p. 349-353.]