

PACT OF BALKAN ENTENTE BETWEEN GREECE, ROUMANIA, TURKEY AND YUGOSLAVIA. SIGNED AT ATHENS, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1934

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC, and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA, being desirous of contributing to the consolidation of peace in the Balkans;

Animated by the spirit of understanding and conciliation which inspired the drawing-up of the Briand-Kellogg Pact and the decisions of the Assembly of the League of Nations in relation thereto;

Firmly resolved to ensure the observance of the contractual obligations already in existence and the maintenance of the territorial situation in the Balkans as at present established;

Have resolved to conclude a

„Pact of Balkan Entente“

And to that end have designated their respective Plenipotentiaries, to wit:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC:

His Excellency Monsieur Demetre MAXIMOS, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA:

His Excellency Monsieur Nicolas TITULESCU, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC:

His Excellency Monsieur Tevfik RÜSTÜ Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF YUGOSLAVIA:

His Excellency Monsieur Bogolioub JEVTITCH, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

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

Article 1.

Greece, Roumania, Turkey and Yugoslavia mutually guarantee the security of each and all of their Balkan frontiers.

Article 2.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to concert together in regard to the measures to be taken in contingencies liable to affect their interests as defined by the present Agreement. They undertake not to embark upon any political action in relation to any other Balkan country not a signatory of the present Agreement without previous mutual consultation, nor to incur any political obligation to any other Balkan country without the consent of the other Contracting Parties.

Article 3.

The present Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signature by all the Contracting Parties, and shall be ratified as rapidly as possible. It shall be open to any Balkan country whose accession thereto is favourably regarded by the Contracting Parties, and such accession shall take effect as soon as the other signatory countries have notified their agreement.

In faith whereof the said Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Pact.

Done at Athens, this ninth day of February, nineteen hundred and thirty-four, in four copies, one of which has been delivered to each of the High Contracting Parties.

D. MAXIMOS.

Dr. T. RÜSTÜ.

N. TITULESCU.

B. JEVTITCH.

PROTOCOL-ANNEX.

In proceeding to sign the Pact of Balkan Entente, the four Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Greece, Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Turkey have seen fit to define as follows the nature of the undertakings assumed by their respective countries, and to stipulate explicitly that the said definitions form an integral part of the Pact.

1. Any country committing one of the acts of aggression to which Article 2 of the London Conventions of July 3rd and 4th, 1933, relates shall be treated as an aggressor.
2. The Pact of Balkan Entente is not directed against any Power. Its object is to guarantee the security of the several Balkan frontiers against any aggression on the part of any Balkan State.
3. Nevertheless, if one of the High Contracting Parties is the victim of aggression on the part of any other non-Balkan Power, and a Balkan State associates itself with such aggression, whether at the time or subsequently, the Pact of Balkan Entente shall be applicable in its entirety in relation to such Balkan State.
4. The High Contracting Parties undertake to conclude appropriate Conventions for the furtherance of the objects pursued by the Pact of Balkan Entente. The negotiation of such Conventions shall begin within six months.
5. As the Pact of Balkan Entente does not conflict with previous undertakings, all previous undertakings and all Conventions based on previous Treaties shall be applicable in their entirety, the said undertakings and the said Treaties having all been published.
6. The words „Firmly resolved to ensure the observance of the contractual obligations already in existence“, in the Preamble to the Pact, shall cover the observance by the High

Contracting Parties of existing Treaties between Balkan States, to which one or more of the High Contracting Parties is a signatory party.

7. The Pact of Balkan Entente is a defensive instrument; accordingly, the obligations on the High Contracting Parties which arise out of the said Pact shall cease to exist in relation to a High Contracting Party becoming an aggressor against any other country within the meaning of Article 2 of the London Conventions.

8. The maintenance of the territorial situation in the Balkans as at present established is binding definitively on the High Contracting Parties. The duration of the obligations under the Pact shall be fixed by the High Contracting Parties in the course of the two years following the signature of the Pact, or afterwards. During the two years in question the Pact cannot be denounced. The duration of the Pact shall be fixed at not less than five years, and may be longer. If, two years after the signature of the same, no duration has been fixed, the Pact of Balkan Entente shall ipso facto remain in force for five years from the expiry of the two years after the signature thereof. On the expiry of the said five years, or of the period on which the High Contracting Parties have agreed for its duration, the Pact of Balkan Entente shall be renewed automatically by tacit agreement for the period for which it was previously in force, failing denunciation by any one of the High Contracting Parties one year before the date of its expiry; provided always that no denunciation or notice of denunciation shall be admissible, whether in the first period of the Pact's validity (namely, seven or more than seven years) or in any subsequent period fixed automatically by tacit agreement, before the year preceding the date on which the Pact expires.

9. The High Contracting Parties shall inform each other as soon as the Pact of Balkan Entente is ratified in accordance with their respective laws.

ATHENS, this ninth day of February, nineteen hundred and thirty-four.

(S.) D. MAXIMOS.

(S.) N. TITULESCU.

(S.) Dr. T. RÜSTÜ.

(S.) B. JEVTIĆ. [JEVTITCH]

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