

**TREATY OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK
REPUBLIC AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.
SIGNED AT PRAGUE, MAY 16TH, 1935**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC and

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS,

Being desirous of strengthening peace in Europe and of guaranteeing its benefits to their respective countries by securing a fuller and stricter application of those provisions of the Covenant of the League of Nations which are designed to maintain the national security, territorial integrity and political independence of States,

Determined to devote their efforts to the preparation and conclusion of a European agreement for that purpose, and in the meantime to promote, as far as lies in their power, the effective application of the provisions of the Covenant of the League of Nations,

Have resolved to conclude a Treaty to this end and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC:
Monsieur Edouard BENEŠ, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS:
Monsieur Serge ALEXANDROVSKY, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

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

Article 1.

In the event of the Czechoslovak Republic or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics being threatened with or in danger of aggression on the part of any European State, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and reciprocally the Czechoslovak Republic undertake mutually to proceed to an immediate consultation as regards the measures to be taken for the observance of the provisions of Article 10 of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Article 2.

Should, in the circumstances specified in Article 15, paragraph 7, of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Czechoslovak Republic or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics be the object, notwithstanding the sincerely peaceful intentions of both countries, of an unprovoked aggression on the part of a European State, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and reciprocally the Czechoslovak Republic shall immediately come to each other's aid and assistance.

Article 3.

In consideration of the fact that under Article 16 of the Covenant of the League of Nations any Member of the League which resorts to war in disregard of its covenants under

Articles 12, 13 or 15 of the Covenant is ipso facto deemed to have committed an act of war against all other Members of the League, the Czechoslovak Republic and reciprocally the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics undertake, in the event of one of them being the object, in these conditions and notwithstanding the sincerely peaceful intentions of both countries, of an unprovoked aggression on the part of a European State, immediately to come to each other's aid and assistance in application of Article 16 of the Covenant.

The same obligation is assumed in the event of the Czechoslovak Republic or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics being the object of an aggression on the part of a European State in the circumstances specified in Article 17, paragraphs 1 and 3, of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Article 4.

Without prejudice to the preceding provisions of the present Treaty, it is stipulated that should either of the High Contracting Parties become the object of an aggression on the part of one or more third Powers in conditions not giving ground for aid or assistance within the meaning of the present Treaty, the other High Contracting Party undertakes not to lend, for the duration of the conflict, aid or assistance, either directly or indirectly, to the aggressor or aggressors. Each High Contracting Party further declares that it is not bound by any other agreement for assistance which is incompatible with the present undertaking.

Article 5.

The undertakings stipulated above being consonant with the obligations of the High Contracting Parties as Members of the League of Nations, nothing in the present Treaty shall be interpreted as restricting the duty of the latter to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of the world or as restricting the obligations resulting for the High Contracting Parties from the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Article 6.

The present Treaty, both the Czechoslovak and the Russian texts whereof shall be equally authentic, shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Moscow as soon as possible. It shall be registered with the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

It shall take effect as soon as the ratifications have been exchanged and shall remain in force for five years. If it is not denounced by either of the High Contracting Parties giving notice thereof at least one year before the expiry of that period, it shall remain in force indefinitely, each of the High Contracting Parties being at liberty to terminate it at a year's notice by a declaration to that effect.

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

Done at Prague, in duplicate, this 16th day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five.

(L. S.) (Signed) Dr. Edouard BENEŠ.

(L. S.) (Signed) S. ALEXANDROVSKY.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

Upon proceeding to the signature of the Treaty of Mutual Assistance between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of to-day's date, the Plenipotentiaries have signed the following Protocol, which shall be included in the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty.

I.

It is agreed that the effect of Article 3 is to oblige each Contracting Party immediately to come to the assistance of the other by immediately complying with the recommendations of the Council of the League of Nations as soon as they have been issued in virtue of Article 16 of the Covenant. It is further agreed that the two Contracting Parties will act in concert to ensure that the Council shall issue the said recommendations with all the speed required by the circumstances and that, should the Council nevertheless, for whatever reason, issue no recommendation or fail to reach a unanimous decision, effect shall none the less be given to the obligation to render assistance. It is also agreed that the undertakings to render assistance mentioned in the present Treaty refer only to the case of an aggression committed against either Contracting Party's own territory.

II.

The two Governments declare that the undertakings laid down in Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the present Treaty, concluded with a view to promoting the establishment in Eastern Europe of a regional system of security, inaugurated by the Franco-Soviet Treaty of May 2nd, 1935, will be restricted within the same limits as were laid down in paragraph 4 of the Protocol of Signature of the said Treaty. At the same time, the two Governments recognise that the undertakings to render mutual assistance will operate between them only in so far as the conditions laid down in the present Treaty may be fulfilled and in so far as assistance may be rendered by France to the Party victim of the aggression.

III.

The two Governments, deeming it desirable that a regional agreement should be concluded aiming at organising security between Contracting States, and which might moreover embody or be accompanied by pledges of mutual assistance, recognise their right to become parties by mutual consent, should occasion arise, to similar agreements in any form, direct or indirect, that may seem appropriate, the obligations under these various agreements to take the place of those resulting from the present Treaty.

Done at Prague, this 16th day of May, 1935.

(Signed) Dr. Edouard BENEŠ.

(Signed) S. ALEXANDROVSKY.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 159, 1935/1936, p. 357-361.]