

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to
the Council).

C.114.1934.VI.

Geneva, March 5th, 1934.

MANDATES.

FRONTIER BETWEEN SYRIA AND PALESTINE (WESTERN SECTION).

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate, for the consideration of the Council, letters from the United Kingdom Government and from the French Government, dated February 15th, 1934, by which the two Governments submit for the approval of the Council the Agreement concluded in Paris on March 7th, 1923,* between the United Kingdom and France concerning the delimitation of the Western Section of the Frontier between Syria and the Lebanon on the one hand, and Palestine on the other.

* The text of this Agreement is to be found in the Treaty Series of the League of Nations, Volume XXII, 1924, No.565, pages 363 to 373.

1. Letter from the Government of the United Kingdom.

London, February 15th, 1934.

To the Secretary-General
of the League of Nations.

I am directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to invite a reference to page 6 of the minutes of the 76th Session of the Council (League Document No. C/76th Session/P.V.3(1))¹⁾ from which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe that the report of the Representative of Czechoslovakia on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its 23rd Session, which was adopted by the Council, contained the following passage: "The Commission's observations on the administration of Palestine contain a reminder of the promise given at the meeting of the Council on 30th January, 1932, by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine. The two mandatory Powers concerned will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the earliest possible date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier".

2. His Majesty's Government presume that the promise which Monsieur Osusky had in mind is that recorded on page 6 of the minutes of the 66th Session of the Council (League Document No. C.66th Session/P.V.7(1)).²⁾ The United Kingdom representative then stated that he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from

Note by the Secretary-General:

1) See Official Journal, November 1933 (first part), page 1322.

2) See Official Journal, March 1932 (second part), pages 505-506.

Palestine, which was delimited in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that His Majesty's Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government, and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council. The President, who was the French representative, associated himself with the statement made by the United Kingdom representative.

3. In accordance with this promise the question was immediately examined by the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom who reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlooked. No steps were therefore taken again to bring the matter before the Council.

4. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that the matter has been raised both in the Mandates Commission and in the report of the Rapporteur which was adopted by the Council, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in deference to the wishes of the Council, but without prejudice to their views on the somewhat difficult legal question involved, are glad in this case to take the formal step of communicating a copy of the Agreement concluded on the 7th March, 1923, between the French Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the approval of the Council.

(Signed) G.W. RENDEL.

2. Letter from the French Government.

(Translation)

Paris, February 15th, 1934.

To the Secretary-General
of the League of Nations.

Sir,

The French Government has had its attention drawn to a passage in the report submitted by the representative of Czechoslovakia to the Council and adopted by it on the work of the Permanent Mandates Commission during its twenty-third session. This passage, which is reproduced on page 6 of the Minutes of the Seventy-sixth Session of the Council (Document C/76th Session/P.V.3 (1)),⁽¹⁾ is as follows:

"The Commission's observations on the administration of Palestine contain a reminder of the promise given at the meeting of the Council on January 30th, 1932, by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom regarding the western section of the frontier between Syria and Palestine. The two mandatory Powers will, I feel sure, communicate for approval at the earliest possible date the agreement relating to that section of the frontier".

The promise to which M. Osusky referred in these terms is presumably that recorded on page 6 of the Minutes of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Council (Document C.66th Session/⁽²⁾ P.V.7(1)) . The United Kingdom representative then stated that

Note by the Secretary-General:

(1) See Official Journal, November 1933 (First Part), p.1322.

(2) See Official Journal, March 1932 (Second Part), pp.505-506.

he had just been informed that the formal approval of the Council had never been sought for the western section of the frontier, dividing Syria and the Lebanon from Palestine, which was delimited in 1923. Viscount Cecil added that his Government would lose no time in examining this question in consultation with the French Government and, if any necessary measures had been overlooked, the appropriate action would be taken, in agreement with the French Government, to remedy the omission at a future session of the Council.

In accordance with this promise, the question was immediately examined by the British Government together with the French Government, and the two Governments reached the conclusion that no necessary measures on their part had in fact been overlooked. No steps were therefore taken by the two Governments to bring the matter again before the Council.

The French Government nevertheless desires to take into account the observations made both by the Permanent Mandates Commission and by the Czechoslovak representative in his report, which was adopted by the Council, and to accede to the wishes of the Council itself. While expressly reserving its views on the legal question which may give rise to controversy, it is prepared to submit the Agreement concluded on March 7th, 1923 between Great Britain and France for the delimitation of the frontiers between Syria, the Lebanon and Palestine, for the formal approval of the Council.

I have the honour to communicate to you herewith a
certified true copy of the said Agreement¹⁾ for this purpose.

For the Minister for Foreign Affairs
and by delegation:

(signed) Alexis LEGER
French Ambassador,
Secretary-General.

1) Note by the Secretary-General: See note on page 1.