NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Council the letters dated September 15th and 27th, 1937, with annexes, from the French and Turkish Governments respectively, transmitting to the Council the text of the treaties provided for in No. 7 of the Fundamental Principles of the Council's resolution of January 27th, 1937, and in paragraph 5 of the Council's resolution of May 29th, 1937. These treaties were signed at Geneva on May 29th, 1937.

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I. LETTER, DATED SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1937, FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

[Translation.]

I have the honour to enclose the text of the treaties provided for in No. 7 of the Fundamental Principles laid down in the Council's resolution of January 27th, 1937, which were signed at Geneva on May 29th, 1937, and to request you to bring them to the notice of the Council. The treaties in question have come into force, and the condition provided in paragraph 5 of the report adopted by the Council on May 29th, 1937, for the entry into force of the Statute and Fundamental Law of the Sanjak on November 29th, 1937, is thus complied with.

(Signed) Lagarde.

II. LETTER, DATED SEPTEMBER 27TH, 1937, FROM THE PERMANENT DELEGATE OF TURKEY TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

[Translation.]

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose the text of the treaties provided for in No. 7 of the Fundamental Principles laid down in the Council's resolution of January 27th, 1937, which were signed at Geneva on May 29th, 1937, and to request you to bring them to the notice of the Council. The treaties in question have come into force, and the condition provided in paragraph 5 of the report adopted by the Council on May 29th, 1937, for the entry into force of the Statute and Fundamental Law of the Sanjak on November 29th, 1937, is thus complied with.

(Signed) N. Sadak.

Permanent Delegate of Turkey.

Annex A.

TREATY OF GUARANTEE OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE SANJAK.

[Translation.]

The President of the French Republic, of the one part; and

The President of the Turkish Republic, of the other part;

In accordance with the resolution adopted at Geneva by the Council of the League of Nations on January 27th, 1937, and with the decision taken by the Council on to-day's date, Being desirous of determining the manner in which the two Governments will contribute towards ensuring the observance of the Statute and Fundamental Law of the Sanjak, Have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The President of the French Republic:

M. Yvon Delbos, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
M. Pierre Viénot, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
M. Henri Ponsot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Turkey;

The President of the Turkish Republic:

Dr. Tevfik Rüstü Aras, Deputy for Smyrna, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
M. Numan Menemencioglu, Deputy for Gaziantep, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;
M. Hasen Riza Soyak, Secretary-General of the Office of the President of the Republic;

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

Article 1.

France and Turkey guarantee the territorial integrity of the Sanjak.

Article 2.

The High Contracting Parties undertake, in the event of the integrity of the territory of the Sanjak as defined in the Statute being threatened, to refer the matter without delay jointly or separately to the Council of the League of Nations.
They shall confer together on the urgent measures to be taken pending a decision by the Council.

Article 3.

Should a threat of aggression or any attack against the territory of the Sanjak necessitate urgent measures, France and Turkey agree to take all suitable steps to counter this threat.

The General Staffs of the High Contracting Parties shall remain in direct touch with each other in order to define and prepare the measures to be adopted to ensure, if necessary, the execution of the obligations assumed by the two Governments.

Article 4.

The High Contracting Parties, who are bound to respect the regime of the Sanjak defined in the texts adopted by the Council of the League of Nations, declare their willingness to give effect to such recommendations as the Council may make to them to ensure the observance of the decisions it may take in exercise of its right of supervision over the application of this regime.

Any action which the High Contracting Parties may be called upon to take in accordance with a decision by the Council shall be previously discussed between the two Governments.

Article 5.

Should circumstances occur which constitute an immediate threat to the Statute of the Sanjak as defined by the Council’s decision, the High Contracting Parties shall confer together without delay on this situation, and shall discuss the desirability of urgently referring the matter to the Council.

Article 6.

The present Treaty, concluded in execution of a resolution by the Council of the League of Nations, may not be interpreted as restricting the task assigned to the League of Nations, or as affecting the obligations assumed by the High Contracting Parties in virtue of the Covenant of the League.

Article 7.

The present Treaty shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Paris.

It shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the ratifications.

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

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.


Dr. Rüstü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.

Annex B.

AGREEMENT FOR THE GUARANTEE OF THE TURKO-SYRIAN FRONTIER.

[Translation.]

The President of the French Republic, acting both in his own capacity and in virtue of the powers conferred on him by the international acts regarding Syria, of the one part; and

The President of the Turkish Republic, of the other part,

In accordance with the resolution adopted at Geneva on January 27th, 1937, by the Council of the League of Nations,

Considering the special relations existing between France and Syria,

In anticipation of Syria’s accession to the full exercise of her sovereignty and independence by decision of the League of Nations,

Respectful of Syria’s territorial integrity,

And being anxious to ensure relations of friendship and good neighbourhood between Turkey and Syria by means of co-operation between Turkey, France and Syria,

Have decided to conclude for this purpose an agreement of friendship and guarantee and have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The President of the French Republic:

M. Yvon Delbos, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

M. Pierre Viénot, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

M. Henri Ponsot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Turkey;
The President of the Turkish Republic:

Dr. Tevfik Rüştü Aras, Deputy for Smyrna, Minister for Foreign Affairs;
M. Numan Menemencioglu, Deputy for Gazianteb, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs;
M. Hasen Riza Soyak, Secretary-General of the Office of the President of the Republic;

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

Article 1.

The High Contracting Parties recognise as definitive the Turko-Syrian frontier fixed by the Final Protocol of Delimitation signed at Aleppo on May 3rd, 1930, and guarantee its inviolability.

Article 2.

The High Contracting Parties shall take all steps in their power to prevent, both in Turkish and Syrian territory, the preparation and commission of acts directed against the regime or security of the other Party.

Should it appear necessary to stipulate special provisions for this purpose, separate agreements shall be concluded regarding these provisions between Turkey and Syria.

Article 3.

When, by decision of the League of Nations, the responsibility for Syria's external relations is transferred to the Syrian Government alone, France shall continue to guarantee the Turko-Syrian frontier as long as special relations continue to exist between France and Syria.

Article 4.

The present Agreement shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Paris.

It shall enter into force on the day of the exchange of the ratifications.

The High Contracting Parties declare that they accept in advance the accession of the Syrian Government to the present Agreement.

In faith whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.

Dr. Rüştü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.

Annex C.

JOINT DECLARATION.

[Translation.]

France and Turkey,

In view of the Treaty of Guarantee of the territorial integrity of the Sanjak and the Agreement for the guarantee of the Turko-Syrian frontier;

Considering that the settlement of the question of the Sanjak leaves no further matter for dispute regarding the territorial status established by the Treaty of Lausanne;

Being equally attached to the consolidation of general peace, and being anxious to confirm their collaboration to this end within the framework of the League of Nations;

Being resolved to make an effective contribution to security in the Eastern Mediterranean, mutually undertake to respect the integrity of Syrian territory and Lebanese territory,

And signify their agreement to assist Syria and Lebanon in obtaining the full exercise of their independence and sovereignty.

When France submits to the Council of the League of Nations the agreements concluded by her with the two States with a view to preparing for their accession to the full exercise of their independence and sovereignty and to defining her special relations with the said States, Turkey shall support the approval of these agreements by the Council. She shall recognise these agreements as and when approved by the Council, and shall support the candidature of Syria and Lebanon for admission to the League of Nations.

France and Turkey being equally desirous, in anticipation of this new situation, of promoting the establishment of relations between Turkey and the said States on a firm basis, France shall,
for her part, lend every assistance in the negotiations which Turkey is prepared to undertake in accordance with the terms of the attached Protocol.

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.

Dr. Rüstü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.

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Annex D.

PROTOCOL ANNEXED TO THE JOINT FRANCO-TURKISH DECLARATION.

[Translation.]

The High Contracting Parties place on record their agreement on the following points:

(1) When, by decision of the League of Nations, Syria and Lebanon obtain the full exercise of their independence and sovereignty, the rights and obligations arising out of all treaties, Conventions and other acts concluded by the French Government in the name and on behalf of Syria or Lebanon, or both those States, shall be automatically transferred to the Syrian and Lebanese Governments in as far as they concern each of the said Governments;

(2) In anticipation of such decision by the League of Nations, France and Turkey shall take all necessary steps to ensure, if need be, the adaptation of the above-mentioned agreements to the situation in which the said decision and the entry into force of the Franco-Syrian and Franco-Lebanese agreements will place Syria and Lebanon;

(3) In anticipation of the same decision, France and Turkey shall do their utmost to conclude such agreements as may appear necessary to ensure the development of normal relations between Turkey and Syria and between Turkey and Lebanon, particularly as regards establishment, commerce and navigation, commercial exchanges, railway relations, etc.;

(4) The Railway Agreement of October 27th, 1932, is hereby confirmed;

(5) The question of optants is settled by the exchange of the attached letters.

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.

Dr. Rüstü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.

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Annex E.

PROTOCOL OF SIGNATURE.

[Translation.]

As between the undersigned, the following acts have been signed on to-day’s date:

(1) Treaty of Guarantee of the Territorial Integrity of the Sanjak;
(2) Agreement for the Guarantee of the Turko-Syrian Frontier;
(3) Joint Franco-Turkish Declaration, and
(4) Protocol annexed to that Declaration.

It is agreed that these acts shall enter into force simultaneously on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.

Dr. Rüstü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.
Annex F.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN TURKEY AND THE TURKISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

[Translation.]

French Embassy in Turkey.

From the French Ambassador in Turkey to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

May 29th, 1937.

With reference to the Convention signed at Ankara on October 27th, 1932, regulating the question of the property of Turkish nationals in Syria and Lebanon and the property of Syrian and Lebanese nationals in Turkey, and the letters exchanged on the same date regarding Turkish optants and Syrian and Lebanese optants, I have the honour, on behalf of my Government, to submit to the Turkish Government for approval the following provisions for settling the question of optants as a whole:

1. Persons having opted for Turkey in virtue of Article 31 of the Treaty of Lausanne, and persons having opted for Syria and Lebanon in virtue of the stipulations of Article 3 of the Convention signed at Ankara on May 30th, 1926, who have not transferred their respective domiciles to Turkey in the one case and to Syria and Lebanon in the other case within six months as from the date on which the above-mentioned Convention of October 27th, 1932, is found by common agreement between the two parties to have been fully carried out, shall finally lose their right of option and shall automatically acquire Syrian or Lebanese nationality in the one case and Turkish nationality in the other case;

2. Persons of Syrian or Lebanese origin who were established abroad on August 30th, 1924, and have neglected to opt, within the time-limits fixed in Article 34 of the Treaty of Lausanne, for the nationality in force in their country of origin, may exercise this right of option within a period of one year as from the date of the adoption of the present provisions;

3. Declarations of transfer of domicile made in virtue of paragraph 1 of the present provisions shall be sent in by those concerned to the administrative authorities of the place of their former domicile for transmission, in Turkey to the Vais, and in the States under mandate to the delegates of the High Commissioner.

Declarations of option made in virtue of paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 1, of the present provisions shall be sent in by those concerned to the French consulates at their place of residence. These declarations shall be communicated to the Turkish Government by the French Government.

If the Turkish Government agrees to these provisions, I should be glad if you would notify me by a communication reproducing their terms, it being understood that the exchange of our two letters will constitute an agreement, as from the date of your reply, between my Government and the Turkish Government.

I have the honour to be, etc.

R. Ponsot.

[Translation.]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey to His Excellency the French Ambassador in Turkey.

May 29th, 1937.

In a letter of to-day's date, you were good enough to submit to the Turkish Government for approval the following provisions for settling the question of optants as a whole:

1. Persons having opted for Turkey in virtue of Article 31 of the Treaty of Lausanne, and persons having opted for Syria and Lebanon in virtue of the stipulations of Article 3 of the Convention signed at Ankara on May 30th, 1926, who have not transferred their respective domiciles to Turkey in the one case and to Syria and Lebanon in the other case within six months as from the date on which the above-mentioned Convention of October 27th, 1932, is found by common agreement between the two parties to have been fully carried out, shall finally lose their right of option and shall automatically acquire Syrian or Lebanese nationality in the one case and Turkish nationality in the other case;

2. Persons of Syrian or Lebanese origin who were established abroad on August 30th, 1924, and have neglected to opt, within the time-limits fixed in Article 34 of the Treaty of Lausanne, for the nationality in force in their country of origin, may exercise this right of option within a period of one year as from the date of the adoption of the present provisions;
"(3) Declarations of transfer of domicile made in virtue of paragraph 1 of the present provisions shall be sent in by those concerned to the administrative authorities of the place of their former domicile for transmission, in Turkey to the Valis, and in the States under mandate to the delegates of the High Commissioner.

"Declarations of option made in virtue of paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 1, of the present provisions shall be sent in by those concerned to the French consulates at their place of residence. These declarations shall be communicated to the Turkish Government by the French Government."

In reply to your communication, I have the honour to signify the Turkish Government's consent to the foregoing proposals.

I have the honour to be, etc.

N. Menemencioglu.

Annex G.

PROTOCOL REGARDING THE CONSOLIDATION OF FRANCO-TURKISH INTERESTS.

[Translation.]

Now that the friendly collaboration between France and Turkey has been confirmed by the agreement reached at Geneva, the High Contracting Powers wish to signify their common desire to consolidate and develop their respective interests, and to this end agree: to negotiate an establishment agreement, to hasten the liquidation of matters still in suspense which concern their nationals, and, in the same spirit, to seek new opportunities of collaboration.

Done at Geneva in duplicate on May 29th, 1937.

Dr. Rüstü Aras. N. Menemencioglu. H. R. Soyak.