

Conseil, aussi longtemps que ce sera possible, voudra certainement ne pas contribuer à ébranler.»

Der Bericht des Dreierkomitees fand einstimmig die Billigung des Rates einschließlich der Stimme des Danziger Vertreters; wie dies schon vorher in dem Beschluß des Rates vom 5. Oktober geschehen war, ist das Dreierkomitee weiterhin mit der Beobachtung der Lage in Danzig beauftragt worden. Aus der nur kurzen Diskussion über den Bericht sind die Bemerkungen von Lester bedeutsam, denen zufolge die vom Rat beschlossene Verfahrensänderung keine grundlegende Neuerung darstellt, vielmehr lediglich eine Übung sanktioniert, die bereits in der Juli- und Septembertagung des Rates befolgt war. Im Laufe der letzten Jahre habe sich der Rat nur einmal auf Antrag seines Amtsvorgängers und zweimal auf seinen eigenen Antrag hin mit Danziger Verfassungsfragen befaßt.

Am 18. Februar 1937 ist der schweizerische Professor Burckhardt an Stelle des bisherigen Völkerbundskommissars Lester zum Hohen Kommissar ernannt worden.<sup>19)</sup> v. Tabouillot.

## **Beschlüsse der Konferenz von Buenos Aires zur Sicherung des Friedens (Dezember 1936)\***

### **I. Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation, and Reestablishment of Peace**

The Governments represented at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace,

Considering:

That according to the statement of Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, to whose lofty ideals the meeting of this Conference is due, the measures to be adopted by it 'would advance the cause of world peace, inasmuch as the agreements which might be reached would supplement and reinforce the efforts of the League of Nations and of all other existing or future peace agencies in seeking to prevent war';

That every war or threat of war affects directly or indirectly all civilized peoples and endangers the great principles of liberty and justice which constitute the American ideal and the standard of American international policy;

That the Treaty of Paris of 1928 (Kellogg-Briand Pact) has been accepted by almost all the civilized states, whether or not members of other peace organizations, and that the Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation of 1933 (Saavedra Lamas Pact signed at Rio de Janeiro) has the approval of the twenty-one American Republics represented in this Conference,

<sup>19)</sup> Journ. Off. 1937, Annexe 1647, S. 240.

\*) Vgl. dazu die Abhandlung oben S. 345 ff.

Have resolved to give contractual form to these purposes by concluding the present Convention, to which end they have appointed the Plenipotentiaries hereafter mentioned:

[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Who, after having deposited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article I. — In the event that the peace of the American Republics is menaced, and in order to coördinate efforts to prevent war, any of the Governments of the American Republics signatory to the Treaty of Paris of 1928 or to the Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation of 1933, or to both, whether or not a member of other peace organizations, shall consult with the other Governments of the American Republics, which, in such event, shall consult together for the purpose of finding and adopting methods of peaceful coöperation.

Article II. — In the event of war, or a virtual state of war between American States, the Governments of the American Republics represented at this Conference shall undertake without delay the necessary mutual consultations, in order to exchange views and to seek, within the obligations resulting from the pacts above mentioned and from the standards of international morality, a method of peaceful collaboration; and, in the event of an international war outside America which might menace the peace of the American Republics, such consultation shall also take place to determine the proper time and manner in which the signatory States, if they so desire, may eventually coöperate in some action tending to preserve the peace of the American Continent.

Article III. — It is agreed that any question regarding the interpretation of the present Convention, which it has not been possible to settle through diplomatic channels, shall be submitted to the procedure of conciliation provided by existing agreements, or to arbitration or to judicial settlement.

Article IV. — The present Convention shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The original convention shall be deposited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic which shall communicate the ratifications to the other signatories. The Convention shall come into effect between the High Contracting Parties in the order in which they have deposited their ratifications.

Article V. — The present Convention shall remain in effect indefinitely but may be denounced by means of one year's notice, after the expiration of which period the Convention shall cease in its effects as regards the party which denounces it but shall remain in effect for the remaining signatory States. Denunciations shall be addressed to the Government of the Argentine Republic, which shall transmit them to the other contracting States.

In witness whereof, the above mentioned Plenipotentiaries sign the present Convention in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and hereunto affix their respective seals, at the City of Buenos Aires, Capital of the Argentine Republic, on the twenty-third day of the month of December, nineteen hundred and thirty-six.

*Reservation of Paraguay:* 'With the express and definite reservation in respect to its peculiar international position as regards the League of Nations'.

## II. Convention to Coordinate, Extend, and Assure the Fulfillment of the Existing Treaties between the American States

The Governments represented at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace,

Animated by a desire to promote the maintenance of general peace in their mutual relations;

Appreciating the advantages derived and to be derived from the various agreements already entered into condemning war and providing methods for the pacific settlement of international disputes;

Recognizing the need for placing the greatest restrictions upon resort to war; and

Believing that for this purpose it is desirable to conclude a new convention to coordinate, extend and assure the fulfillment of existing agreements, have appointed Plenipotentiaries as follows:

[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Who, after having deposited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1. Taking into consideration that, by the Treaty to Avoid and Prevent Conflicts between the American States, signed at Santiago, May 3, 1923 (known as the Gondra Treaty), the High Contracting Parties agree that all controversies which it has been impossible to settle through diplomatic channels or to submit to arbitration in accordance with existing treaties shall be submitted for investigation and report to a Commission of Inquiry;

That by the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, signed at Paris on August 28, 1928 (known as the Kellogg-Briand Pact, or Pact of Paris), the High Contracting Parties solemnly declare in the names of their respective peoples that they condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies and renounce it as an instrument of national policy in their relations with one another;

That by the General Convention of Inter-American Conciliation, signed at Washington, January 5, 1929, the High Contracting Parties agree to submit to the procedure of conciliation all controversies between them, which it may not have been possible to settle through diplomatic channels, and to establish a 'Commission of Conciliation' to carry out the obligations assumed in the Convention;

That by the General Treaty of Inter-American Arbitration, signed at Washington, January 5, 1929, the High Contracting Parties bind themselves to submit to arbitration, subject to certain exceptions, all differences between them of an international character, which it has not been possible to adjust by diplomacy and which are juridical in their nature by reason of being susceptible of decision by the application of the principles of law, and, moreover, to create a procedure of arbitration to be followed; and

That by the Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation, signed at Rio de Janeiro, October 10, 1933, (known as the Saavedra Lamas Treaty), the High Contracting Parties solemnly declare that they condemn wars of aggression in their mutual relations or in those with other States and that the settlement of disputes or controversies between them shall be effected only by pacific means which have the sanction of international law, and also declare that as between them territorial questions must not be settled by violence, and that they will not recognize any territorial arrangement not obtained by pacific means, nor the validity of the occupation or acquisition of territories

brought about by force of arms, and, moreover, in a case of non-compliance with these obligations, the contracting States undertake to adopt, in their character as neutrals, a common and solidary attitude and to exercise the political, juridical or economic means authorized by international law, and to bring the influence of public opinion to bear, without, however, resorting to intervention, either diplomatic or armed, subject nevertheless to the attitude that may be incumbent upon them by virtue of their collective treaties; and, furthermore, undertake to create a procedure of conciliation;

The High Contracting Parties reaffirm the obligations entered into to settle, by pacific means, controversies of an international character that may arise between them.

Article 2. The High Contracting Parties, convinced of the necessity for the coöperation and consultation provided for in the Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation and Reestablishment of Peace signed by them on this same day, agree that in all matters which affect peace on the Continent, such consultation and coöperation shall have as their object to assist, through the tender of friendly good offices and of mediation, the fulfillment by the American Republics of existing obligations for pacific settlement, and to take counsel together, with full recognition of their juridical equality, as sovereign and independent States, and of their general right to individual liberty of action, when an emergency arises which affects their common interest in the maintenance of peace.

Article 3. In case of threat of war, the High Contracting Parties shall apply the provisions contained in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation and Reestablishment of Peace, above referred to, it being understood that, while such consultation is in progress and for a period of not more than six months, the parties in dispute will not have recourse to hostilities or take any military action whatever.

Article 4. The High Contracting Parties further agree that, in the event of a dispute between two or more of them, they will seek to settle it in a spirit of mutual regard for their respective rights, having recourse for this purpose to direct diplomatic negotiation or to the alternative procedures of mediation, commissions of inquiry, commissions of conciliation, tribunals of arbitration, and courts of justice, as provided in the treaties to which they may be parties; and they also agree that, should it be impossible to settle the dispute by diplomatic negotiation and should the States in dispute have recourse to the other procedures provided in the present Article, they will report this fact and the progress of the negotiations to the other signatory States. These provisions do not affect controversies already submitted to a diplomatic or juridical procedure by virtue of special agreements.

Article 5. The High Contracting Parties agree that, in the event that the methods provided by the present Convention or by agreements previously concluded should fail to bring about a pacific settlement of differences that may arise between any two or more of them, and hostilities should break out between two or more of them, they shall be governed by the following stipulations:

(a) They shall, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation (Saavedra Lamas Treaty), adopt in their character as neutrals a common and solidary attitude; and shall consult immediately with one another, and take cognizance of the outbreak of hostilities in order

to determine, either jointly or individually, whether such hostilities shall be regarded as constituting a state of war so as to call into effect the provisions of the present Convention.

(b) It is understood that, in regard to the question whether hostilities actually in progress constitute a state of war, each of the High Contracting Parties shall reach a prompt decision. In any event, should hostilities be actually in progress between two or more of the Contracting Parties, or between two or more signatory States not at the time parties to this Convention by reason of failure to ratify it, each Contracting Party shall take notice of the situation and shall adopt such an attitude as would be consistent with other multilateral treaties to which it is a party or in accordance with its municipal legislation. Such action shall not be deemed an unfriendly act on the part of any State affected thereby.

Article 6. Without prejudice to the universal principles of neutrality provided for in the case of an international war outside of America and without affecting the duties contracted by those American States members of the League of Nations, the High Contracting Parties reaffirm their loyalty to the principles enunciated in the five agreements referred to in Article 1, and they agree that in the case of an outbreak of hostilities or threat of an outbreak of hostilities between two or more of them, they shall, through consultation, immediately endeavour to adopt in their character as neutrals a common and solidary attitude, in order to discourage or prevent the spread or prolongation of hostilities.

With this object, and having in mind the diversity of cases and circumstances, they may consider the imposition of prohibitions or restrictions on the sale or shipment of arms, munitions and implements of war, loans or other financial help to the States in conflict, in accordance with the municipal legislation of the High Contracting Parties, and without detriment to their obligations derived from other treaties to which they are or may become parties.

Article 7. Nothing contained in the present Convention shall be understood as affecting the rights and duties of the High Contracting Parties which are at the same time members of the League of Nations.

Article 8. The present Convention shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their constitutional procedures. The original Convention and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, which shall communicate the ratifications to the other signatory States. It shall come into effect when ratifications have been deposited by not less than eleven of the signatory States.

The Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but it may be denounced by any of the High Contracting Parties, such denunciation to be effective one year after the date upon which such notification has been given. Notices of denunciation shall be communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, which shall transmit copies thereof to the other signatory States. Denunciation shall not be regarded as valid if the Party making such denunciation shall be actually in a state of war, or shall be engaged in hostilities without fulfilling the provisions established by this Convention.

In witness whereof, the Plenipotentiaries above mentioned have signed this Treaty in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and have affixed thereto their respective seals, in the City of Buenos Aires, Capital of the Argentine Republic, this twenty-third day of December, of the year 1936.

### *Reservations*

*Reservation of the Argentine Delegation:* (1.) In no case, under Article VI, can foodstuffs or raw materials destined for the civil populations of belligerent countries be considered as contraband of war, nor shall there exist any duty to prohibit credits for the acquisition of said foodstuffs or raw materials which have the destination indicated.

With reference to the embargo on arms, each Nation may reserve freedom of action in the face of a war of aggression.

*Reservation of the Delegation of Paraguay:* (2.) In no case, under Article VI, can foodstuffs or raw materials destined for the civil populations of belligerent countries be considered as contraband of war, nor shall there exist any duty to prohibit credits for the acquisition of said foodstuffs or raw materials which have the destination indicated.

With reference to the embargo on arms, each Nation may reserve freedom of action in the face of a war of aggression.

*Reservation of the Delegation of El Salvador:* (3.) With reservation with respect to the idea of continental solidarity when confronted by foreign aggression.

*Reservation of the Delegation of Colombia:* (4.) In signing this Convention, the Delegation of Colombia understands that the phrase «in their character as neutrals», which appears in Articles V and VI, implies a new concept of international law which allows a distinction to be drawn between the aggressor and the attacked, and to treat them differently. At the same time, the Delegation of Colombia considers it necessary, in order to assure the full and effective application of this Pact, to set down in writing the following definition of the aggressor:

That State shall be considered as an aggressor which becomes responsible for one or several of the following acts:

a) That its armed forces, to whatever branch they may belong, illegally cross the land, sea or air frontiers of other States. When the violation of the territory of a State has been effected by irresponsible bands organized within or outside of its territory and which have received direct or indirect help from another State, such violation shall be considered equivalent, for the purposes of the present Article, to that effected by the regular forces of the State responsible for the aggression;

b) That it has intervened in a unilateral or illegal way in the internal or external affairs of another State;

c) That it has refused to fulfill a legally given arbitral decision or sentence of international justice.

No consideration of any kind, whether political, military, economic or of any other kind, may serve as an excuse or justification for the aggression here anticipated.

### **III. Additional Protocol Relative to Non-Intervention**

The Governments represented at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace,

Desiring to assure the benefits of peace in their mutual relations and in their relations with all the nations of the earth, and to abolish the practice of intervention; and

Taking into account that the Convention on Rights and Duties of States, signed at the Seventh International Conference of American States, De-

ember 26, 1933, solemnly affirmed the fundamental principle that »no State has the right to intervene in the internal or external affairs of another«,

Have resolved to reaffirm this principle through the negotiation of the following Additional Protocol, and to that end they have appointed the Plenipotentiaries hereafter mentioned:

[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Who, after having deposited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The High Contracting Parties declare inadmissible the intervention of any one of them, directly or indirectly, and for whatever reason, in the internal or external affairs of any other of the Parties.

The violation of the provisions of this Article shall give rise to mutual consultation, with the object of exchanging views and seeking methods of peaceful adjustment.

Article 2. It is agreed that every question concerning the interpretation of the present Additional Protocol, which it has not been possible to settle through diplomatic channels shall be submitted to the procedure of conciliation provided for in the agreements in force, or to arbitration, or to judicial settlement.

Article 3. The present Additional Protocol shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The original instrument and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, which shall communicate the ratifications to the other signatories. The Additional Protocol shall come into effect between the High Contracting Parties in the order in which they shall have deposited their ratifications.

Article 4. The present Additional Protocol shall remain in effect indefinitely, but may be denounced by means of one year's notice, after the expiration of which period the Protocol shall cease in its effects as regards the party which denounces it but shall remain in effect for the remaining signatory States. Denunciations shall be addressed to the Government of the Argentine Republic, which shall notify them to the other contracting States.

In witness whereof, the above mentioned Plenipotentiaries sign the present Additional Protocol in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and hereunto affix their respective seals, at the City of Buenos Aires, Capital of the Argentine Republic, on the twenty-third day of the month of December, nineteen hundred and thirty-six.

#### IV. Treaty on the Prevention of Controversies

The Governments represented at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace,

In order to adopt, in the interest of the maintenance of international peace, so far as may be attainable, a preventive system for the consideration of possible causes of future controversies and their settlement by pacific means; and

Convinced that whatever assures and facilitates compliance with the treaties in force constitutes an effective guarantee of international peace,

Have agreed to conclude a treaty and to this effect have named the following Plenipotentiaries:

[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Who, after having deposited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The High Contracting Parties bind themselves to establish permanent bilateral mixed commissions composed of representatives of the signatory Governments which shall in fact be constituted, at the request of any of them, and such party shall give notice of such request to the other signatory Governments.

Each Government shall appoint its own representative to the said commission, the meetings of which are to be held, alternately, in the capital city of one and the other Governments represented in each of them. The first meeting shall be held at the seat of the Government which convokes it.

Article 2. The duty of the aforementioned commissions shall be to study, with the primary object of eliminating them, as far as possible, the causes of future difficulties or controversies, and to propose additional or detailed lawful measures which it might be convenient to take in order to promote, as far as possible, the due and regular application of treaties in force between the respective parties, and also to promote the development of increasingly good relations in all ways between the two countries dealt with in each case.

Article 3. After each meeting of any of the said preventive Commissions a minute shall be drawn and signed by its members setting out the considerations and decisions thereof and such minute shall be transmitted to the Governments represented in the commissions.

Article 4. The present Treaty shall not affect obligations previously entered into by the High Contracting Parties by virtue of international agreements.

Article 5. The present Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The original instrument shall be deposited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, which shall transmit authentic certified copies to the Governments for the aforementioned purpose of ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the archives of the Pan American Union in Washington, which shall notify the signatory Governments of said deposit. Such notification shall be considered as an exchange of ratifications.

Article 6. The present Treaty will come into effect between the High Contracting Parties in the order in which they deposit their respective ratifications.

Article 7. The present Treaty shall remain in effect indefinitely, but may be denounced by means of one year's notice given to the Pan American Union, which shall transmit it to the other signatory Governments. After the expiration of this period the Treaty shall cease in its effects as regards the party which denounces it but shall remain in effect for the remaining High Contracting Parties.

In witness whereof, the above mentioned Plenipotentiaries sign the present Treaty in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and hereunto affix their respective seals, at the City of Buenos Aires, Capital of the Argentine Republic, on the twenty-third day of the month of December, 1936.

*Reservation of the Delegation of Peru:* Peru adheres to the above proposal with a reservation to Article 1 in the sense that it understands that recourse to the bilateral mixed commission is not mandatory but optional.

## V. Inter-American Treaty on Good Offices and Mediation

The Governments represented at the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace,

Considering that, notwithstanding the pacts which have been concluded between them, it is desirable to facilitate, even more, recourse to peaceful methods for the solution of controversies,

Have resolved to celebrate a treaty of Good Offices and Mediation between the American countries, and to this end have named the following Plenipotentiaries:

[Here follow the names of the Plenipotentiaries.]

Who, after having deposited their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

Article I. When a controversy arises between them that cannot be settled by the usual diplomatic means, the High Contracting Parties may have recourse to the good offices or mediation of an eminent citizen of any of the other American countries, preferably chosen from a general list made up in accordance with the following article.

Article II. To prepare the aforementioned list, each Government, as soon as the present treaty is ratified, shall name two citizens selected from among the most eminent by reason of their high character and juridical learning.

The designations shall immediately be communicated to the Pan American Union, which shall prepare the list and shall forward copies thereof to the contracting parties.

Article III. According to the hypothesis set forth in Article I, the countries in controversy shall, by common agreement, select one of the persons named on this list, for the purposes indicated in this treaty.

The person selected shall name the place where, under his chairmanship, one duly authorized representative of each of the parties shall meet in order to seek a peaceful and equitable solution of the difference.

If the parties are unable to agree concerning the selection of the person lending his good offices or mediation, each one shall choose one of those named on the list. The two citizens chosen in this way shall select, from among the names listed, a third person who shall undertake the functions referred to, endeavoring, in so far as possible, to make a choice that shall be acceptable to both parties.

Article IV. The mediator shall determine a period of time, not to exceed six nor be less than three months, for the parties to arrive at some peaceful settlement. Should this period expire before the parties have reached some solution, the controversy shall be submitted to the procedure of conciliation provided for in existing inter-American agreements.

Article V. During the procedure established in this Treaty each of the interested parties shall provide for its own expense and shall contribute equally to common costs or honoraria.

Article VI. The present Treaty shall not affect obligations previously entered into by the High Contracting Parties by virtue of international agreements.

Article VII. The present Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The original instrument shall be deposited in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, which shall transmit authentic certified copies to the

Governments for the aforementioned purpose of ratification. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the archives of the Pan American Union in Washington, which shall notify the signatory Governments of said deposit. Such notification shall be considered as an exchange of ratifications.

Article VIII. The present Treaty will come into effect between the High Contracting Parties in the order in which they deposit their respective ratifications.

Article IX. The present Treaty shall remain in effect indefinitely, but may be denounced by means of one year's notice given to the Pan American Union, which shall transmit it to the other signatory Governments. After the expiration of this period the Treaty shall cease in its effects as regards the party which denounces it, but shall remain in effect for the remaining High Contracting Parties.

In witness whereof, the above mentioned Plenipotentiaries sign the present Treaty in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French and hereunto affix their respective seals, at the City of Buenos Aires, Capital of the Argentine Republic, on the twenty-third day of the month of December, 1936.

## VI. Declaration of Principles of Inter-American Solidarity and Coöperation

The Governments of the American Republics, having considered:

That they have a common likeness in their democratic form of government, and their common ideals of peace and justice, manifested in the several Treaties and Conventions which they have signed for the purpose of constituting a purely American system tending towards the preservation of peace, the proscription of war, the harmonious development of their commerce and of their cultural aspirations demonstrated in all of their political, economic, social, scientific and artistic activities;

That the existence of continental interests obliges them to maintain solidarity of principles as the basis of the life of the relations of each to every other American nation;

That Pan-Americanism, as a principle of American International Law, by which is understood a moral union of all of the American Republics in defense of their common interests based upon the most perfect equality and reciprocal respect for their rights of autonomy, independence and free development, requires the proclamation of principles of American International Law; and

That it is necessary to consecrate the principle of American solidarity in all non-continental conflicts, especially since those limited to the American continent should find a peaceful solution by the means established by the Treaties and Conventions now in force or in the instruments hereafter to be executed,

The Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace  
Declares:

1. That the American Nations, true to their republican institutions, proclaim their absolute juridical liberty, their unrestricted respect for their several sovereignty and the existence of a common democracy throughout America;

2. That every act susceptible of disturbing the peace of America affects each and every one of them, and justifies the initiation of the procedure of consultation provided for in the Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation and Reestablishment of Peace, executed at this Conference; and

3. That the following principles are accepted by the international American community:

(a) Proscription of territorial conquest and that, in consequence, no acquisition made through violence shall be recognized;

(b) Intervention by one State in the internal or external affairs of another State is condemned;

(c) Forcible collection of pecuniary debts is illegal; and

(d) Any difference or dispute between the American Nations, whatever its nature or origin, shall be settled by the methods of conciliation, or full arbitration, or through operation of international justice.

## Chronik der Staatsverträge

### Politische Verträge

Durch die im Anhang abgedruckte *britisch-französische Erklärung vom 24. April 1937*<sup>1)</sup>, die von den Botschaftern der beiden Mächte in Brüssel der belgischen Regierung übergeben und von dieser zur Kenntnis genommen worden ist, haben die beiden Westmächte *Belgien* aus den ihnen gegenüber bestehenden Verpflichtungen aus dem Vertrag von Locarno und den nach Maßgabe der Entwürfe vom 19. März 1936<sup>2)</sup> getroffenen Abreden vom Frühjahr 1936 entlassen. Die Befreiung Belgiens von den darin enthaltenen Beistandspflichten entspricht dem vom König der Belgien in seiner Rede vom 14. Oktober 1936 ausgesprochenen Wunsche, die internationale Stellung des Landes den geänderten tatsächlichen Kräfteverhältnissen entsprechend zu modifizieren und das Land möglichst aus allen Konflikten seiner Nachbarn herauszuhalten<sup>3)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup> Französ. Wortlaut: *Annales Parlementaires de Belgique, Chambre de Représentants 1936/37, S. 1284f.*; englischer Wortlaut: *Cmd. 5437.*

<sup>2)</sup> Abdruck: *Diese Zeitschr. Bd. VI, S. 309 ff.*

<sup>3)</sup> In der Königsrede vom 14. 10. 1936 (Abdruck: *«La Société des Nations», Revue Mensuelle Documentaire 1936, S. 431 ff.*) heißt es u. a. *«Notre situation géographique nous commande d'entretenir un appareil militaire de nature à dissuader quiconque de nos voisins d'emprunter notre territoire pour attaquer un autre Etat.*

En s'acquittant de cette mission, la Belgique concourt de manière imminente à la paix de l'Europe occidentale et elle se crée, ipso facto, un droit au respect et à l'aide éventuelle de tous les Etats qui ont intérêt à cette paix. Sur cette base, je crois l'opinion belge unanime.

Nos engagements ne doivent pas aller au delà. Toute politique unilatérale affaiblit notre position à l'extérieur et suscite, à tort ou à raison, la division à l'intérieur. Une alliance même purement défensive ne crée pas la paix, car si prompt que pourrait être le secours d'un allié, il n'interviendrait qu'après le choc de l'envahisseur, qui sera foudroyant . . . C'est pourquoi nous devons, comme le disait récemment le ministre des Affaires étrangères, poursuivre une politique exclusivement et intégralement belge.

Cette politique doit viser résolument à nous placer en dehors des conflits de nos voisins. Elle répond à notre idéal national. Elle peut se soutenir par un effort militaire et