

NOTES

EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE

BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS

RELATIVE TO

Certain Nationality Decrees promulgated
in Tunis and Morocco (French Zone) on
November 8, 1921.

London, May 24, 1923.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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Notes exchanged between the British and French Governments relative to certain Nationality Decrees promulgated in Tunis and Morocco (French Zone) on November 8, 1921.

London, May 24, 1923.

(1.)

The Marquess Curzon of Kedleston to Count de Saint-Aulaire.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, May 24, 1923.

His Majesty's Government will be prepared to proceed no further with the case submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice arising out of the nationality decrees promulgated in Tunis on the 8th November, 1921, on receipt of an undertaking by the French Government that arrangements will be made by them before the 1st January, 1924, whereby a British national who is the child born in Tunis of a British national who was himself born there shall be entitled to decline French nationality. This right will not, however, extend to succeeding generations.

2. I understand from your Excellency that the child born in Tunis of a British national born elsewhere than in Tunis is not claimed by your Government to possess French nationality and that French nationality will not be imposed on any British national born in Tunis before the 8th November, 1921, without an opportunity being afforded to him to decline it.

3. I should be glad to receive from you at the same time an assurance that no attempt will be made to impose Tunisian nationality instead of French nationality on British nationals in Tunis.

4. It is of course understood that in agreeing to discontinue the proceedings at The Hague neither His Majesty's Government nor the French Government abandon the point of view which they have maintained in the diplomatic correspondence and in the preliminary proceedings at The Hague, nor will the principle adopted in the present agreement be applicable elsewhere than in Tunis.

5. With regard to the application to British nationals of the corresponding nationality decrees issued in Morocco (French zone), I would propose that for the present no further proceedings should take place at The Hague, as in present circumstances the question is not one of practical importance. On this question, therefore, the two Governments will maintain their present positions and reserve their rights.

I have, &c.

CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

(2.)

*Count de Saint-Aulaire to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.**Ambassade de France, Londres,
le 24 mai 1923.*

M. le Marquis,

PAR une lettre en date de ce jour, votre Seigneurie m'a fait savoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté était disposé à cesser toute procédure dans l'affaire soumise à la Cour permanente de Justice internationale, relativement aux décrets de nationalité promulgués en Tunisie, le 8 novembre 1921, si le Gouvernement français s'engageait à prendre, avant le 1^{er} janvier 1924, toutes mesures nécessaires pour qu'un sujet britannique, né en Tunisie d'un sujet britannique, qui y est lui-même né, ait le droit de décliner la nationalité française, ce droit, toutefois, ne devant pas s'étendre aux générations suivantes.

Le Gouvernement français m'a autorisé à porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement britannique que les mesures auxquelles vient de faire allusion votre Seigneurie seront prises en temps utile.

Il est entendu que l'enfant né en Tunisie d'un sujet britannique, né lui-même ailleurs qu'en Tunisie, n'est pas revendiqué comme son national par le Gouvernement français et que la nationalité française ne sera imposée à aucun sujet britannique né en Tunisie avant le 8 novembre 1921, sans que la faculté lui soit donnée de décliner cette nationalité.

Aucune tentative ne sera faite pour imposer en Tunisie aux sujets britanniques la nationalité tunisienne à la place de la nationalité française.

En acceptant d'arrêter la procédure de La Haye ni le Gouvernement français ni celui de Sa Majesté n'abandonnent le point de vue soutenu soit dans la correspondance diplomatique échangée, soit dans la première phase de l'instance; le principe adopté dans le présent arrangement ne s'appliquera pas ailleurs qu'en Tunisie.

L'application aux sujets britanniques des décrets analogues sur la nationalité promulgués au Maroc (zone française) ne donnera lieu pour le moment à aucune procédure à La Haye, la question ne présentant pas actuellement d'intérêt pratique. En conséquence, les deux Gouvernements, maintenant leur position sur ce point, réservent leurs droits.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

SAINT-AULAIRE.

(Translation.)

*French Embassy, London,
May 24, 1923.*

My Lord,

IN your Lordship's note of to-day's date you inform me that His Majesty's Government are prepared to proceed no further with the case submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice relative to the nationality decrees promulgated in Tunis on the 8th November, 1921, if the French Government engage to take before the 1st January, 1924, all necessary measures whereby a British subject born in Tunis of a British subject who was himself born there will have the right to decline French nationality, such right, however, not to extend to succeeding generations.

The French Government authorise me to inform the British Government that these measures will be taken in good time.

It is understood that the child born in Tunis of a British subject born elsewhere than in Tunis is not claimed by the French Government as a French national, and that French nationality will not be imposed on any British subject born in Tunis before the 8th November, 1921, without the option being given him to decline it.

No attempt will be made to impose Tunisian nationality instead of French nationality on British subjects in Tunis.

In agreeing to discontinue the proceedings at The Hague, neither the French Government nor that of His Majesty abandon the point of view which they have maintained in the diplomatic correspondence and in the preliminary proceedings at The Hague, nor will the principle adopted in the present agreement be applicable elsewhere than in Tunis.

The application to British subjects of the corresponding nationality decrees promulgated in Morocco (French zone) does not at present give rise to any proceedings at The Hague, the question not being at the moment of practical importance. On this question, therefore, the two Governments will maintain their present position and reserve their rights.

I have, &c.

SAINT-AULAIRE.
