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# NOTES

EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE

## UNITED KINGDOM AND SWITZERLAND

RESPECTING THE

Application to the Principality of Liechtenstein of Commercial Agreements in force between Great Britain and Switzerland.

London, March 28 and April 26, 1924.

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*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament  
by Command of His Majesty.*

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**Notes exchanged between the United Kingdom and Switzerland respecting the Application to the Principality of Liechtenstein of Commercial Agreements in force between Great Britain and Switzerland,**

*London, March 28 and April 26, 1924.*

No. 1.

*The Swiss Minister to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*

*Légation de Suisse, Londres,  
le 28 mars 1924.*

M. le Président,

PAR note du 4 novembre 1919, mon prédécesseur a porté à la connaissance de son Excellence M. le Marquis Curzon de Kedleston que le Conseil fédéral suisse avait consenti à assumer, à l'étranger, par l'intermédiaire de sa représentation diplomatique et consulaire, les intérêts de la Principauté de Liechtenstein.

En faisant suite à cette communication et d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Au printemps 1919, la Principauté de Liechtenstein, aux prises avec de sérieuses difficultés, demanda au Conseil fédéral suisse de l'assister dans la sauvegarde de ses intérêts économiques. Celui-ci ne refusa pas l'aide que sollicitait le petit pays voisin, dont la superficie est de 159 kilomètres carrés et qui compte à peine 12,000 habitants. Des pourparlers furent engagés en vue de la conclusion entre les deux pays d'accords relatifs aux postes et aux douanes. En vertu d'une convention signée le 10 novembre 1920, la Confédération suisse a assumé l'exploitation du service postal, télégraphique et téléphonique dans la Principauté.

Ensuite, le 29 mars 1923, est intervenu entre la Suisse et la Principauté de Liechtenstein un traité réunissant la Principauté au territoire douanier suisse. Ce traité est entré en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1924. Depuis cette date, toutes les dispositions réglementant les relations commerciales entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Suisse sont appliquées à la Principauté. Pendant la durée du Traité du 29 mars 1923, la Principauté de Liechtenstein ne peut négocier, de son propre chef, aucune convention de commerce et de douane avec un État tiers, mais il appartient à la Confédération suisse de passer de telles conventions avec pleins effets pour la Principauté.

Le Conseil fédéral croit pouvoir admettre que, vu les conditions très particulières de la Principauté de Liechtenstein, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté consentira à appliquer à celle-ci, tant et aussi longtemps qu'elle constituera une partie intégrante du territoire douanier suisse, les dispositions réglementant les relations commerciales entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Suisse.

Votre Excellence m'obligerait beaucoup en voulant bien prendre note de ce qui précède et en me donnant connaissance de l'attitude

que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté sera en mesure d'adopter par rapport à cet arrangement entre la Suisse et la Principauté de Liechtenstein.

Veillez agréer, &c.  
(Signé) C. R. PARAVICINI.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Swiss Legation, London, March 28, 1924.*  
MY predecessor, in a note dated the 4th November, 1919, informed the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston that the Swiss Federal Council had agreed to take charge of the interests of the Principality of Liechtenstein in foreign countries, through the intermediary of the Swiss diplomatic and consular representatives.

In continuation of that communication and under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform your Excellency as follows:—

In the spring of 1919, the Principality of Liechtenstein, faced with serious difficulties, asked the Swiss Federal Council for assistance in the protection of her economic interests. Switzerland could not refuse the assistance asked for by the small neighbouring country, which has an area of 159 square kilometres, and has scarcely 12,000 inhabitants. Negotiations took place between the two countries for the conclusion of agreements respecting postal matters and customs duties. By virtue of an agreement signed on the 10th November, 1920, the Swiss Confederation undertook the working of the postal, telegraph and telephone services in the Principality.

Subsequently, a treaty was concluded on the 29th March, 1923, between Switzerland and the Principality incorporating the Principality in the Swiss customs territory. This treaty came into force on the 1st January, 1924. Since that date all the provisions governing commercial relations between Great Britain and Switzerland have been applied to the Principality. So long as the treaty of the 29th March, 1923, remains in force, the Principality of Liechtenstein is unable to negotiate, on its own account, any commercial or customs agreement with a third State, but it rests with the Swiss Confederation to conclude such agreements, with full force for the Principality.

The Swiss Federal Council entertains the belief that, in view of the very peculiar conditions of the Principality of Liechtenstein, His Majesty's Government will agree to the application to the latter, so long as it constitutes an integral part of Swiss customs territory, of the provisions governing the commercial relations between Great Britain and Switzerland.

I shall be much obliged if your Excellency will be so good as to take note of the above and inform me of the attitude which His Majesty's Government will be prepared to adopt as regards this arrangement between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Accept, &c.  
(Signed) C. R. PARAVICINI.

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No. 2.

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Swiss Minister.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 26, 1924.*

IN your note of the 28th ultimo you enquired whether His Majesty's Government would agree to the application to the Principality of Liechtenstein of commercial agreements in force between Switzerland and Great Britain.

2. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that His Majesty's Government are prepared to agree to this arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RAMSAY MacDONALD.

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