

No. 15.

Note from His Majesty's Government in the Irish Free State to the United States Minister in Dublin of 14th July, 1928.

EXCELLENCY,

Dublin, 14th July, 1928.

Your Excellency's note of the 23rd June,* enclosing a revised draft of the proposed treaty for the renunciation of war, has been carefully studied by the Government of the Irish Free State.

As I informed you in my note of the 30th May the Government of the Irish Free State were prepared to accept unreservedly the draft treaty proposed by your Government on the 13th April holding as they did that neither their right of self-defence nor their commitments under the Covenant of the League of Nations were in any way prejudiced by its terms.

The draft treaty as revised is equally acceptable to the Government of the Irish Free State and I have the honour to inform you that they are prepared to sign it in conjunction with such other Governments as may be so disposed. As the effectiveness of the proposed treaty as an instrument for the suppression of war depends to a great extent upon its universal application, the Government of the Irish Free State hope that the treaty may meet with the approbation of the other Governments to which it has been sent and that it may subsequently be accepted by all the other Powers of the world.

Accept, &c.,

P. MCGILLIGAN.

No. 16.

Note from His Majesty's Government in Canada to the United States Minister in Ottawa of 16th July, 1928.

Office of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada,

SIR,

Ottawa, 16th July, 1928.

I desire to acknowledge your note of the 23rd June* and the revised draft which it contained of the treaty for the renunciation of war, and to state that His Majesty's Government in Canada cordially accepts the treaty as revised and is prepared to participate in its signature.

Accept, &c.,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

No. 17.

Sir Austen Chamberlain to Mr. Atherton.

SIR,

Foreign Office, 18th July, 1928.

I am happy to be able to inform you that after carefully studying the note which you left with me on the 23rd June, transmitting the revised text of the draft of the proposed treaty for the renunciation of war, His Majesty's Government in Great Britain accept the proposed treaty in the form transmitted by you and will be glad to sign it at such time and place as may be indicated for the purpose by the Government of the United States.

My Government have read with interest the explanations contained in your note as to the meaning of the draft treaty, and also the comments which it contains upon the considerations advanced by other Powers in the previous diplomatic correspondence.

You will remember that in my previous communication of the 19th May I explained how important it was to my Government that the principle should be recognized that if one of the parties to this proposed treaty resorted to war in violation of its terms, the other parties should be released automatically from their obligations towards that party under the treaty. I also pointed out that respect for the obligations arising out of the Covenant of the League of Nations and of the Locarno treaties was the foundation of the policy of the Government of this country, and that they could not agree to any new treaty which would weaken or undermine these engagements.

The stipulation now inserted in the preamble under which any signatory Power hereafter seeking to promote its national interests by resort to war against another signatory is to be denied the benefits furnished by the treaty is satisfactory to my Government, and is sufficient to meet the first point mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

His Majesty's Government in Great Britain do not consider, after mature reflection, that the fulfilment of the obligations which they have undertaken in the Covenant of the League of Nations and in the Treaty of Locarno is precluded by their acceptance of the proposed treaty. They concur in the view enunciated by the German Government in their note of the 27th April that those obligations do not contain anything which could conflict with the treaty proposed by the United States Government.

My Government have noted with peculiar satisfaction that all the parties to the Locarno Treaty are now invited to become original signatories of the new treaty, and that it is clearly the wish of the United States Government that all members of the League should become parties either by signature or accession. In order that as many States as possible may participate in the new movement, I trust that a general invitation will be extended to them to do so.

* This note was, *mutatis mutandis*, identical with No. 12.