

2.) Abkommen vom 2. Januar 1937 und Notenwechsel vom 31. Dezember 1936 zwischen Großbritannien und Italien betreffend das Mittelmeer ¹⁾

I.—MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Italian Government:•

Animated by the desire to contribute increasingly, in the interests of the general cause of peace and security, to the betterment of relations between them and between all the Mediterranean Powers, and resolved to respect the rights and interests of those Powers;

Recognise that the freedom of entry into, exit from, and transit through, the Mediterranean is a vital interest both to the different parts of the British Empire and to Italy, and that these interests are in no way inconsistent with each other;

Disclaim any desire to modify or, so far as they are concerned, to see modified the *status quo* as regards national sovereignty of territories in the Mediterranean area;

Undertake to respect each other's rights and interests in the said area;

Agree to use their best endeavours to discourage any activities liable to impair the good relations which it is the object of the present declaration to consolidate.

This declaration is designed to further the end of peace and is not directed against any other Power.

ERIC DRUMMOND.

G. CIANO.

Rome, January 2, 1937.

II.—EXCHANGE OF NOTES.

Sir Eric Drummond to Count Ciano.

*British Embassy, Rome,
December 31, 1936.*

Your Excellency,

The Royal Italian Government may perhaps be aware that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was asked in the House of Commons on 16th December whether he would lay upon the table of the House the precise terms of the guarantee given to His Majesty's Government by the Government of Italy concerning the occupation of the Balearic Islands by Italian subjects.

To this question Mr. Eden replied that the assurances to which reference was made were given verbally. He proceeded to state that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Rome, acting on instructions, informed the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs on 12th September that "any alteration of the *status quo* in the Western Mediterranean would be a matter of the closest concern to His Majesty's Government." Mr. Eden continued that, in taking note of this communication, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs had assured Mr. Ingram that the Italian Government had not, either before or since the revolution in Spain, engaged in any negotiations with General Franco whereby the *status quo* in the Western Mediterranean would be altered, nor would they engage in any such negotiations in the future. This assurance, the Secretary of State added,

¹⁾ Cmd. 5348.

was subsequently reaffirmed spontaneously to the British naval attaché in Rome by the Italian Ministry of Marine, and the Italian Ambassador in London had on several occasions given to the Secretary of State similar verbal assurances.

In view of these assurances, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom assume that, so far as Italy is concerned, the integrity of the present territories of Spain shall in all circumstances remain intact and unmodified. They would, however, be grateful if your Excellency saw your way formally to confirm the accuracy of this assumption, and I have accordingly the honour to enquire whether your Excellency could supply me with such confirmation.

I avail, &c.

ERIC DRUMMOND.

Count Ciano to Sir Eric Drummond.

(Translation.)

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Rome,

M. l'Ambassadeur,

December 31, 1936.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of to-day's date in which you draw my attention to a question asked in the House of Commons on 16th December last, and the reply given by Mr. Eden, on the subject of the assurances given verbally by the Royal Italian Government concerning the *status quo* in the Western Mediterranean. You reminded me that in taking note of the communication made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on 12th September I assured Mr. Ingram that the Italian Government had not, either before or since the revolution in Spain, engaged in any negotiations with General Franco whereby the *status quo* in the Western Mediterranean would be altered, nor would they engage in any such negotiations in the future.

I have consequently no difficulty, on behalf of the Royal Italian Government, in confirming the accuracy of His Majesty's Government's assumption, namely, that, so far as Italy is concerned, the integrity of the present territories of Spain shall in all circumstances remain intact and unmodified.

I avail, &c.

G. CIANO.

Völkerbund

1. Der Mitgliederbestand des Völkerbundes Anfang 1937

Die Zahl der Völkerbundsmitglieder, die nach der Aufnahme Afghanistans und der Sowjetunion auf der XV. Bundesversammlung (1934) und nach dem am 28. September 1934 vollzogenen Beitritt Ecuadors (vgl. diese Zeitschr. Bd. V, S. 61, 170) auf 60 angestiegen war, verminderte sich im Laufe des Jahres 1935 infolge des rechtskräftig gewordenen Austrittes Japans (am 27. März) und des Deutschen Reiches (am 19. Oktober) auf 58 und ist am 23. Februar 1937 auf 57 zurückgegangen, da Paraguay seine am 23. Februar 1935 dem Völkerbund noti-

9*