

FREE CITY OF DANZIG

I.

ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING THE UTILISATION OF THE PORT OF DANZIG BY POLAND AND AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE TREATMENT OF POLISH NATIONALS AND OTHER PERSONS OF POLISH ORIGIN OR SPEECH IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FREE CITY¹

C.529.1933.I.

LETTER FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS
AT DANZIG TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.[*Translation.*]

Danzig, September 18th, 1933.

In my letter of August 5th, 1933 (document C.460.1933.I),¹ I forwarded to you the text of an arrangement concluded on the same date between Danzig and Poland concerning the utilisation of the port of Danzig by Poland, and the text of an agreement initialled on the same day concerning the treatment of Polish nationals and other persons of Polish origin or speech in the territory of the Free City of Danzig.

Under the terms of the Final Protocol signed on that occasion, the two Governments reserved the right, until September 15th, to request the High Commissioner to re-open the procedure pending before him in the matter of the utilisation of the port. If the parties did not have recourse to this procedure before September 15th, the Agreement concerning the treatment of Polish nationals and other persons of Polish origin or speech in the territory of the Free City of Danzig was to come into force on that date.

On September 15th, the Polish Government and the Senate of the Free City of Danzig agreed to substitute the date of September 18th for September 15th in the Final Protocol of August 5th, in order to allow their technical delegates, who were conducting negotiations regarding the participation of the port of Danzig in the maritime trade, to arrive at a positive result.

To-day September 18th, a Protocol embodying the result of these negotiations has been signed at Warsaw, and I have the honour to transmit to you copy of this Protocol herewith.

On the same date, the Agreement concerning the treatment of Polish nationals and other persons of Polish origin or speech in the territory of the Free City of Danzig, the text of which had been initialled on August 5th, was signed at Danzig. Article 20 (the denunciation clause), which had not been drawn up when the Agreement was initialled, is worded as follows:

“After the expiration of one year, the Agreement may be denounced at twelve months’ notice. If so denounced, it shall remain in force until it has been replaced by another agreement or by a decision of the organs of the League of Nations.”

I request you to be good enough to bring the foregoing to the knowledge of the Council.

(Signed) Helmer ROSTING,
High Commissioner

PROTOCOL.

In execution of the provisions of Article 2 of the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933, the representatives of the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and of the Polish Government have agreed upon the following provisions:

I.

The Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Polish Government have agreed that, for the trade in certain goods, the quantities specified in the annex should be transhipped by the Port

¹ See *Official Journal*, October 1933 (Part I), page 1156.

of Danzig within the period of one year—namely from October 1st, 1933, until September 30th, 1934.

II.

The Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Polish Government will, each within the limits of its competence and financial capacity take the necessary steps to adapt the costs of transshipment in the Port of Danzig so that they may correspond to the economic requirements of the hinterland, thus enabling this port to meet the competition of other ports.

III.

Should the trade in the goods mentioned in the annex decrease, and in so far as this decrease is not compensated by a natural increase in other goods, the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Polish Government will enter into negotiations to determine the possibility of providing compensation from the trade in other goods.

IV

A Committee consisting of an equal number of members of both parties shall be appointed to examine the development of the maritime trade, to study the question of the costs of transshipment, and to verify the statistics of maritime trade and other documentary material bearing on the co-operation of the maritime ports situated in Polish Customs territory. This Committee shall submit to the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and to the Polish Government quarterly reports and proposals for amendments to be made in the list of goods. It shall, in particular, be responsible for the preparation of the periodical meetings provided for in the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933.

V

The Senate of the Free City and the Polish Government will do all that lies in their power to facilitate the execution of the provisions laid down in the present Protocol.

VI.

The Polish Government declares that, as regards import permits and reductions in Customs rates, no discrimination will be made to the detriment of the Port of Danzig.

VII.

The Senate of the Free City of Danzig declares that merchants of Jewish origin shall be left entirely free to carry on their commercial activities in the territory of Danzig.

The Senate of the Free City of Danzig will see that this freedom is in no way adversely affected or infringed, and will, if necessary give the required assurances to allay the apprehensions of these commercial circles.

VIII.

The present Protocol shall expire on September 30th, 1934, unless the Senate of the Free City of Danzig and the Polish Government agree before that date to prolong it for a further period. If, however, the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933, is denounced before that date, the present Protocol shall automatically cease to be in force on the same date as the Arrangement of August 5th.

Warsaw, September 18th, 1933.

For the Senate of the Free City of Danzig

(Signed) Ernst BÜTTNER.

For the Polish Government.

(Signed) Antoni ROMAN.

Annex to the Protocol.

List of Goods.

EXPORTS.			
No.	Goods	Item of the Customs tariff	Quantity in tons
1.	Cereals	I/I	300,000
2.	Flours	3/I, 4/I	25,000
3.	Alcohol	27/3 + 4	2,000
4.	Salt	33	10,000
5.	Bran, oil-cake and other fodder	39/2	20,000
6.	Molasses	39/4	30,000

EXPORTS (continued).

No.	Goods	Item of the Customs tariff	Quantity in tons
7.	Petroleum, paraffin, etc.	52/8 + 85	50,000
8.	Leather skins and hides	54 + 55	1,700
9.	Timber and wooden articles	58 + 59 + 60 + 61	560,000
10.	Vegetables	1/2	38,000
11.	Seeds and plants	62/1 — 11 + 62/15 + 62/18	12,800
12.	Coal and coke	79	3,000,000
13.	Tar and turpentine	80/1 — 2 + 86	6,500
14.	Salts of potassium, saltpetre and sodium.	89 + 90 + 103 + 105/2	34,000
15.	Zinc.	147	9,200
16.	Paper	176 + 177 + 178	5,700
17.	Ready-made clothing	209	500
18.	Sulphate of ammonium	98/5	16,500
19.	Metals and metal wares	141 + 143 + 145 — 146 + 149 — 175	18,000

IMPORTS.

1.	Coffee	18/1	4,000
2.	Cocoa	19/1	2,400
3.	Tea	20/1	750
4.	Salted herrings	37/4b	35,000
5.	Phosphorites	41/1-2	9,000
6.	Superphosphates	41/5	2,500
7.	Animal fats and oils.	51	19,000
8.	Leather skins and hides	54 + 55	3,000
9.	Seeds	62,4-10 + 62,15 + 62,18	14,500
10.	Plants.	62/1-3 + 62/11	9,500
11.	Indiarubber, resin and balsams	87	1,800
12.	Indiarubber goods.	88	1,300
13.	Vegetable fats and oils.	117	11,000
14.	Timber and tanning extracts	124	14,600
15.	Ores and pyrites	138	90,000
16.	Copper	143/1	700
17.	Metal and metal wares.	141 + 143 + 145 — 146 + 149 — 175	10,000
18.	Paper and paper goods.	176 — 178	10,000
19.	Woollen yarn and unbleached cotton	183, 186/2 + 3	5,400
20.	Walnuts and almonds .	11/1 + 2	500
21.	Iron and steel.	140 (— 140,3)	5,700
22.	Thomas's phosphate-meal	41/2	10,000
23.	Fruit	6 + 7	2,000
24.	Fresh herrings	37/4a	283
25.	Rice.	2/1 — 4	5,000

With regard to the figures in the list above, the two parties have found it necessary without, however, departing from the principles of the present Protocol, to make the following reservations forthwith.

Exports.

Ad 3. If the American market opens, the figure for these goods will be increased proportionately

Ad 7. The figures in question depend on the export policy of the international cartel.

Imports.

Ad 7, 8, 9, 13. These figures will be corrected after the total import quotas have been fixed by the competent Ministry

Ad 18. This figure is optional and will be annulled if special Customs quotas for the importation of these goods from the producing countries are not granted.

Ad 21. This figure is optional and is valid only if the import quota is maintained.

Ad 23, 24, 25. These figures will be valid only if the Danzig firms in question apply for an import licence for these goods and use it.

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Warsaw September 18th, 1933.

Sir,

Following on the signature of the Protocol dated September 18th, 1933, I have the honour to inform you that the Polish Government will instruct its delegation on the Harbour Board to support the following decisions to be taken by the Board.

- (1) Reduction of the port rates on the basis of the corresponding rates of the other port in the Customs territory and
- (2) Reduction of the expense of the Harbour Board and revision of its present budget with a view to effecting the greatest possible economies.

The decision on the first point should be reached before November 1st, 1933, and on the second point before January 1st, 1934.

The Polish Government reserves the right, if necessary to enter into direct negotiations with the Senate of the Free City of Danzig regarding these decisions of the Harbour Board.

The Polish Government takes note of your letter in which you were good enough to inform me that the Senate of the Free City of Danzig will shortly issue similar instructions to its delegation on the Harbour Board.

(Signed) Anton ROMAN,

Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chief of the Polish Delegation for the negotiations on the application of the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933.

To M. Ernst BÜTTNER, Councillor of State, Chief of the Danzig Delegation for the negotiations on the application of the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933.

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Warsaw September 18th, 1933.

Sir,

Following on the signature of the Protocol dated September 18th, 1933, I have the honour to inform you that the Senate of the Free City will instruct its delegation on the Harbour Board to support the following decisions to be taken by the Board.

- (1) Reduction of the port rates on the basis of the corresponding rates of the other port in the Customs territory and
- (2) Reduction of the expenses of the Harbour Board and revision of its present budget with a view to effecting the greatest possible economies.

The decision on the first point should be reached before November 1st, 1933, and on the second point before January 1st, 1934.

The Senate of the Free City reserves the right, if necessary to enter into direct negotiations with the Polish Government regarding these decisions of the Harbour Board.

The Senate of the Free City takes note of your letter in which you were good enough to inform me that the Polish Government will shortly issue similar instructions to its delegation on the Harbour Board.

(Signed) Ernst BÜTTNER,

Councillor of State, Chief of the Danzig Delegation for the negotiations on the application of the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933.

To M. Anton ROMAN, Economic Adviser to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Chief of the Polish Delegation for the negotiations on the application of the Arrangement of August 5th, 1933.

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[*Translation from the German.*]

Warsaw, September 18th, 1933.

Sir,

Following upon the signature of the Protocol of September 18th, 1933, I have the honour to communicate to you the following:

The Senate of the Free City of Danzig will arrange:

(1) That, in order to bring the stowage tariff in force in the Port of Danzig into line with the stowage tariff in the other port of the Customs territory the supplement of 10 per cent on the Danzig stowage rates at present levied should as soon as possible be abolished.

(2) That the forwarding costs for the transshipment of pine planks in the Port of Danzig should be reduced by 1.60 zloty per standard in order to bring them into line with the forwarding rates at present charged in the other port of the Customs territory.

(3) That the costs for the transshipment of ore should be reduced to an extent which, including the reduction in crane charges to be made by the Harbour Board, should amount to 50 grosz per ton,

(4) That the charge of 5.50 gulden per wagon levied on the Danzig warehouse railway should be reduced as far as possible.

(Signed) BÜTTNER,

*Councillor of State, Chairman of the Danzig Delegation
for the application of the Arrangement of
August 5th, 1933.*

To M. Anton ROMAN, Chief of Department,
President of the Polish Delegation for the
application of the Arrangement of August
5th, 1933.

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II.

ORGANISATION OF THE DANZIG POLICE.

C.651.1933.VII.

Note by the Secretary-General.

Geneva, November 29th, 1933.

At the request of the High Commissioner of the League of Nations at Danzig, the Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Council, for information, a letter addressed by the High Commissioner on November 3rd, 1933, to the President of the Danzig Senate relating to the organisation of the Danzig police, together with the Senate's reply dated November 8th, 1933.

LETTER FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AT DANZIG TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE FREE CITY.

[*Translation.*]

Danzig, November 3rd, 1933.

Rumours are reaching me from various quarters with regard to a new organisation of the police and its effectives and with regard to the militarisation both of its equipment and arms and of its training.

I have the honour, on the strength of the provisions of the report approved by the Council on May 22nd, 1931, with regard to the functions of the High Commissioner as representative of the League of Nations, to request you to let me have official information on this subject with a view to enabling me to inform the Council.

(Signed) Helmer ROSTING,
High Commissioner

REPLY FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DANZIG SENATE TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

[Translation from the German.]

Danzig, November 8th, 1933.

In reply to your letter of November 3rd, 1933, I beg to submit herewith the explanation requested, although I am unable to admit the relevance of your reference to the Council report of May 22nd, 1931.

As to the rumours which have reached you with regard to a new organisation of the police, I may inform you that there is this much of truth in these reports—that the re-organisation of the police was an unqualified necessity in view of the consciousness which the Danzig Government has of its duty to maintain order and security in the Free City. That the ordinary police forces available are very weak and require supplementing by volunteer formations was recognised by Count Gravina in his report of May 31st, 1931. The financial situation of the Free City is still such as not to allow of the ordinary police forces being brought up to the requisite strength. The Danzig Government was accordingly faced with the task of finding other methods of attaining its primary object—namely the maintenance of public safety and order. This object has now been attained by the new organisation of the police recently effected.

The uniformed Danzig police had hitherto been divided into:

- (a) The communal police (Tiegenhof and Neuteich)
- (b) The rural police (*Landjägeri*)
- (c) The safety police (*Schutzpolizei*)

The activities of the *communal police* related, and still relate, to the external maintenance of public safety and order in the urban districts of Tiegenhof and Neuteich.

The *rural police* is distributed throughout the entire rural territory of Danzig in the form of individual posts. Its activities consist in the maintenance of public safety in accordance with the orders of the divisional police (*Kreispolizei*) authorities and in work which in the cities is done by the criminal police.

The work of the *safety police* was, first, to maintain public safety in the police district of Danzig (Danzig and Zoppot) by means of the so-called local police (*Revierpolizei*) who are not quartered in barracks; and, secondly in special cases to provide effectives in closed units for use in police work outside Danzig as well (State police activities). For the latter purpose, the safety police comprised four closed units ("centuries") together with a fifth to handle traffic; (quartered in barracks.)

The new arrangements do not affect the communal police or the rural police.

In the case of the safety police, which was under the Police President in its entirety, the "centuries" have been detached and placed under the direct orders of the Senate as a special State police force for the entire territory of the State.

It has for this reason been given the name "State Police" (*Landespolizei*). The safety police, which is now responsible only for local duty and is not quartered in barracks, remains under the Police President.

Side by side with this new organisation, there has been a change in the training of candidates for the police. Police aspirants have hitherto been trained for their profession theoretically with subsidiary practical training at the same time, in a special police school. The elimination of unsuitable persons was left until after their transfer to the safety police. The police school has now been done away with, and the aspirants are attached at once to the State police and given practical training. Theoretical police training is given only in the case of those aspirants who show themselves in their practical training to be fitted for the police profession.

To meet the demands made on the police, it has hitherto been necessary for the entire safety police to be trained in exercises in considerable numbers in closed units on the lines customary with the police of all countries. Training has also hitherto been given regularly in these exercises to the local police (not quartered in barracks), though not on the same scale as in the case of the closed units (the "centuries") in barracks. In future, under the new scheme, training in these exercises will only be given in a few cases to the local police, and will be reserved in the main for the State police. Intensive training of this kind is impossible in the case of the local police, if only because these officials are almost all too advanced in years and are only given life posts in the police service owing to the lack of openings for them in civilian employ. For this reason, they are no longer being armed with machine-guns and rifles or equipped with steel helmets. This makes it necessary to intensify the practical training of the State police, as the special weapons are now reserved for the latter entirely and it alone will have to cope with resistance or opposition on a considerable scale. The State police is divided into five "centuries" including the traffic "century". In conjunction with the citizen defence force (*Einwohnerwehr*) it constitutes the reserve of the police engaged in everyday local duty.

In the budget for 1933, the strength of the safety police was given as 1,206 men in addition to the police aspirants (*i.e.*, the former police school candidates), whose strength has always

fluctuated according to the number of vacancies expected in each year for the coming year. Of these 1,206 police officials, there remain in the safety police (local duty) 850 men. The remaining 356 men have been transferred to the State police, together with the aspirants from the former police school. Certain aspirants have since been taken over by the State police as policemen, so that the number of the State police with officers and administrative personnel is now 372. There has therefore been no increase in the numbers of the police since the present Government came into power, with the exception of the sixteen former police candidates taken into the State police—an insignificant addition.

The citizens' defence force constitutes a further police reserve. It is under the officer commanding the State police. The citizens' defence force detachments are commanded by persons with a gift for leadership who do duty without pay. The citizens' defence force is distributed over the entire territory of Danzig in proportion to the numbers of the population in the different districts and the willingness of the citizens to give their services to the State for the maintenance of public safety. The total strength of the force varies; it is at present some 1,500 strong.

The arms and equipment of the safety police consist of carbines, pistols and machine pistols. It no longer has machine-guns or steel helmets.

The State police carry rifles, and, in certain cases, have pistols, machine-guns and appliances for removing obstacles, and also steel helmets. The citizens' defence force is armed with rifles or carbines only and has no steel helmets.

As already stated, the safety police has always done special exercises in closed units in training for its work, which may at any time include house fighting. The citizens' defence force, now as formerly only does police exercises. Regular exercises are required in the case of any closed unit; otherwise, it is not a body capable of supporting the police, but a disorderly armed mob which may even be a danger. Over and above this, the citizens' defence force only does such exercises as are required to train it for its duty of assisting the ordinary police in police work.

(Signed) Dr. RAUSCHNING.