

MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

Exchange of notes at Athens December 9, 1924

Entered into force December 9, 1924

*Replaced January 1, 1939, by agreement of November 15, 1938*¹

Treaty Series 706

The American Minister to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

F. O. No. 74

ATHENS, *December 9, 1924*

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to make the following statement of my understanding of the agreement reached through recent conversations held at Washington on behalf of the Government of the United States and the Government of Greece with reference to the treatment which the United States shall accord to the commerce of Greece and which Greece shall accord to the commerce of the United States:

These conversations have disclosed a mutual understanding between the two governments which is that in respect to import, export and other duties and charges affecting commerce as well as in respect to transit, warehousing and other facilities and the treatment of commercial travelers' samples, the United States will accord to Greece and Greece will accord to the United States, its territories and possessions, unconditional most favored nation treatment, and that in the matter of licensing or prohibitions of imports and exports, each country, so far as it at any time maintains such a system, shall accord to the commerce of the other treatment as favorable, with respect to commodities, valuations and quantities, as may be accorded to the commerce of any other country. It is understood that no higher or other duties shall be imposed on the importation into or disposition in the United States, its territories or possessions, or any articles, the produce or manufacture of Greece, than are or shall be payable on like articles, the produce or manufacture of any foreign country; no higher or other duties shall be imposed on the importation into or disposition in Greece of articles, the produce or manufacture of the United States, its territories or possessions than are or shall be payable on like articles, the produce or manufacture of any foreign country;

¹ EAS 137, *post*, p. 367.

similarly, no higher or other duties shall be imposed in the United States, its territories or possessions, or in Greece on the exportation of any articles to the other or to any territory or possession of the other than are payable on the exportation of like articles to any foreign country; every concession with respect to any duty, charge or regulation affecting commerce now accorded or that may hereafter be accorded by the United States or by Greece, by law, proclamation, decree or commercial treaty or agreement, to any third country will become immediately applicable without request and without compensation to the commerce of Greece and of the United States and its territories and possessions respectively;

Provided that this understanding does not relate to

1) The treatment which the United States accords or may hereafter accord to the commerce of Cuba, or any of the territories or possessions of the United States, or the Panama Canal Zone, or to the treatment which is or may hereafter be accorded to the commerce of the United States with any of its territories or possessions, or to the commerce of its territories or possessions with one another;

2) Prohibitions or restrictions of a sanitary character or designed to protect human, animal or plant life or regulations for the enforcement of police or revenue laws.

The present arrangement shall become operative on the day of signature, and, unless sooner terminated by mutual agreement, shall continue in force until thirty days after notice of its termination shall have been given by either party, but should either party be prevented by future action of its legislature from carrying out the terms of this arrangement, the obligations thereof shall thereupon lapse.

I shall be glad to have your confirmation of the accord thus reached.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

IRWIN LAUGHLIN

His Excellency

GEORGE ROUSSOS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Athens.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Minister

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
No. 44543

ATHENS, *December 9, 1924*

MR. MINISTER

I have the honor to offer the following declaration concerning my view of the agreement which was brought about by the conversations that took place

in Washington between the Hellenic Government and the Government of the United States concerning the regime which Greece will apply to the commerce of the United States and the United States to the Hellenic commerce. Those transactions attest the reciprocal agreement between the two Governments with regard to importation, exportation, and other duties and dues connected with trade and also to transit and storing and to facilities to be granted to samples of commercial travellers. Greece will grant to the United States, its territories and possessions and the United States will grant to Greece unconditionally the most favored nation clause and as for licenses and prohibitions of imports and exports, each country will grant to the commerce of the other at any time and as long as these measures will stay in force as favorable a regime concerning the facilities, tariffs, and quantities as that which might be granted to the commerce of any other foreign state.

It is agreed that other or higher duties shall not be applied upon or goods purchased or manufactured in the United States, its territories, and possessions imported or disposed of in Greece than those which would be assessed on similar articles produced or manufactured in any other foreign country and other or higher duties shall not be applied to all articles produced or manufactured in Greece that are imported or disposed of in the United States than those which would be assessed on similar articles produced or manufactured in any other foreign country. Likewise no other or higher duties shall be applied in Greece or in the United States or its territories or possessions than those assessed upon similar goods exported to or in any other foreign country.

Any concession relative to duties of that kind, increases of duties, of regulations granted or to be granted by Greece or by the United States by virtue of a law, order, decree, treaty or commercial agreement to any other state shall immediately be applicable without any requisition and without any compensation to the Hellenic commerce and that of the United States, its territories and possessions respectively. It is understood that the agreement does not relate: First to the regime which the United States do or may grant to the commerce of Cuba or to any territory or possession of the United States or to the Panama Canal Zone or to the regime that is or may be granted to the commerce of the United States by its territories and possessions in their respective relations.

Second to the prohibitions and restrictions of a sanitary nature or intended for the protection of human life, animals and plants, and also the regulations issued in the interest of safety or in revenue matters.

This arrangement will go into effect on the day of its signature and unless it be terminated in common accord it will stay in force until the expiration of a term of thirty days counted from the notification of termination sent by one of the parties to the other but if one of the contracting parties should be prevented from performing its engagements on account of a legislative measure, the arrangement will lapse.

I shall be glad to have your confirmation of the wording of this arrangement as given.

Be pleased to accept Mr. Minister the assurance of my high consideration.

G. Roussos

His Excellency

Mr. IRWIN LAUGHLIN

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister

Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.