

ALBANIA

RECOGNITION OF ZOG I, KING OF THE ALBANIANS¹

875.001Zog/7 : Telegram

The Minister in Albania (Hart) to the Secretary of State

TIRANA, August 4, 1928—10 a. m.

[Received 8:10 p. m.]

48. Zogu² to proclaim himself King within 30 days, officially disclosed.

HART

875.001Zog/12 : Telegram

The Acting Secretary of State to the Minister in Albania (Hart)

[Paraphrase]

WASHINGTON, August 28, 1928—6 p. m.

28. Your 48, August 4, 10 a. m. The Department presumes you will continue to keep it advised by cable regarding the proposed change of regime in Albania. The Department also wishes information at the appropriate moment regarding the action your colleagues will take concerning recognition and presence at the coronation.

CASTLE

875.01/282

The Minister in Albania (Hart) to the Secretary of State

No. 510

TIRANA, August 30, 1928.

[Received September 11.]

SIR: Supplemental to my despatch No. 502 of August 28, 1928,³ with reference to the proposed early change of the form of government in Albania, I have the honor to report that the decision to proclaim Ahmet Zogu the King two days hence, or on Saturday, September 1, appears to be final.

¹ For previous correspondence regarding relations with the revolutionary government in Albania, see *Foreign Relations*, 1925, vol. I, pp. 489 ff.

² Ahmet Zogu, President of Albania.

³ Not printed.

For the last two days the Constituent Assembly has had before it a motion made by Feizi bey Alizotti to give the new monarch the title of "King of the Albanians." Two or three dissenting voices were hissed down and the title is likely to be approved, as a consequence of which Yugoslavia may take abundant time to investigate the inception of this idea.

My Yugoslav colleague said today that the question is one that calls for consideration and that his government will take time to satisfy itself that there is not something sinister about this proposed title which in effect would make the new monarch the king of all Albanians either inside or outside Albania.

The Constituent Assembly, according to the present schedule, will adjourn on Saturday, September 1, after revising the form of government and writing Ahmet Zogu's name into the constitution as King. Ilias Vrioni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informs me that the King will take the title of Zogu I.

I have [etc.]

CHA[RLE]S C. HART

875.001Zog/14 : Telegram

The Minister in Albania (Hart) to the Secretary of State

[Paraphrase]

TIRANA, September 1, 1928—11 a. m.

[Received September 4—1:09 a. m.] ⁴

56. Ahmet Zogu was proclaimed at 9 o'clock this morning as "Zog First, King of the Albanians." It is probable that there will be no coronation and no ceremonies which might raise embarrassing questions for the diplomatic body, acting in unison here. The French Government is indicating an attitude of caution because of the title of "King of the Albanians," while my colleagues from Yugoslavia, Turkey, Germany, and Great Britain, although without instructions, believe their Governments will for the same reason proceed slowly. Today I was confidentially informed that the Italians through Feizi Alizotti and S. Verlaci forced Zogu to change his title when they visited the palace yesterday and asserted they would resign from office and cause a scandal if Zogu persisted in using "King of Albania."

The change of government, in my view, has been brought about in a regular manner and will be accepted by Albania.

HART

⁴ Corrected version received Sept. 8, 8:50 a. m.

875.01/279 : Telegram

The Acting Secretary of State to the Minister in Albania (Hart)

[Paraphrase]

WASHINGTON, September 5, 1928—6 p. m.

30. Your telegram No. 56 received September 4. The Department is in receipt of a note dated Boston, September 3, from the Albanian Minister at Washington, Faïk Konitza, as follows: ⁵

"Acting on instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Tirana, I have the honor to bring to your knowledge that the Constitutional Convention has unanimously voted the restoration of the monarchy in Albania and subsequently has elected, on September the 1st, 1928, President Zogu as King of the Albanians."

You will please ascertain and cable a report of the action so far taken or planned by the Governments of your colleagues in connection with recognizing the new regime in Albania.

CLARK

875.01/280 : Telegram

The Minister in Albania (Hart) to the Secretary of State

[Paraphrase]

TIRANA, September 6, 1928—11 a. m.

[Received 8 p. m.]

58. The Albanian Minister for Foreign Affairs requests the recognition of the Kingdom of Albania in a note which extends the ⁵

"assurance that the Government of His Majesty is solicitous to develop the good relation existing between the two countries and that we will observe in letter and spirit the treaties which have been signed with other states under the Republic. Furthermore the entire efforts of the Royal Government will have as its aim the making of the new Kingdom a factor in the peace of the Balkans. The Government of His Majesty hopes that Your Excellency will have the kindness to employ with his Government all of his influence to obtain new letters accrediting him to His Majesty."

As the change of regime in Albania is by statute, no question of treaty observance is involved. I am confident that the United States will continue to have the good intentions of the new government as of the former one. Recognition has been granted by Italy, Greece, and Hungary, other Governments not having responded as yet. The King's title is Zog (not Zogu) I.

HART

⁵ Quotation not paraphrased.

875.01/280 : Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Minister in Albania (Hart)

WASHINGTON, September 12, 1928—5 p. m.

35. Your No. 58, September 6, 11 a. m., and Department's 30, September 5, 6 p. m. Upon receipt of this telegram please address a note in the following terms to the Minister for Foreign Affairs:

"My Government has taken note of the action of the Constituent Assembly of Albania in changing the form of the government of Albania to that of a constitutional monarchy and in proclaiming President Ahmed Zogu, 'Zog First, King of the Albanians.' I now take pleasure in informing Your Excellency, under instructions from my Government, that the Government of the United States extends recognition to the Kingdom of Albania, it being understood that the exchange of notes of June 22, 1922, between the United States and Albania⁷ and the provisions of Albanian law enacted in pursuance therewith will continue in force."

The following telegram is being sent today by the President to the King of the Albanians:

"It is with pleasure that I extend to Your Majesty and to the people of Albania congratulations on the occasion of your accession to the throne. The American people join with me in expressing best wishes for Your Majesty's good health and happiness and for the prosperity of Albania."

The Department will communicate with you later concerning new letters of credence.

KELLOGG

875.001Zog/19 : Telegram

King Zog to President Coolidge

[Translation]

TIRANA, September 14, 1928—1 p. m.⁸

Deeply moved by the congratulations and the good wishes Your Excellency has so kindly expressed on the occasion of my accession to the throne of Albania, I hasten to present to you the assurance of my most profound gratitude for this act of cordial friendship toward my person and for the Albanian people.

On this occasion it is a pleasure for me to convey to you an expression of the sentiments of gratitude which my people continue to cherish toward the noble people of the United States for the humane

⁷ Date of exchange of notes corrected to read "June 25, 1922," by Department's telegram No. 36, Sept. 13, 6 p. m. The notes are not printed; but see despatch No. 274, June 2, 1924, from the Minister in Albania, *Foreign Relations*, 1924, vol. I, p. 316.

⁸ Date of receipt by the Department not indicated; released to the press on Sept. 20, 1928.

assistance which they gave through the medium of the American Red Cross to my people at a critical time.

Furthermore, the Albanian people are most grateful for the generous hospitality which the great Republic of the United States so liberally extends to the Albanians in the United States, thus bestowing upon them the benefits of American culture and welfare.

Please accept, Excellency, my most sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the greater prosperity of the noble people of the United States.

ZOG

875.01/290

*The Minister in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes
(Prince) to the Secretary of State*

No. 493

BELGRADE, September 20, 1928.

[Received October 10.]

SIR: I have the honor to report, in connection with the recent recognition by the United States of America of Ahmed Beg Zogu as King of the Albanians, that Mr. Štylla, the Albanian Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, called upon me yesterday to express his appreciation of this action on the part of our country. Mr. Štylla emphasized that fact that the United States was the first great power, after Italy, to recognize his new sovereign. He stated that the recognition of the Albanian Kingdom by Italy (a foregone conclusion), Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece was of great importance to the new regime, but that the United States by its very friendly action had gone far toward establishing King Zogu's Government in the eyes of the world.

Mr. Štylla also expressed his gratification at the recognition of his King by Yugoslavia, which followed so closely upon the action of the United States in this matter, that he expressed his belief that there must be some connection between them. I assured him, however, that the United States had had no connection with nor had taken any part in persuading Yugoslavia to take the step of acknowledging the sovereignty of King Zogu. Mr. Štylla then smilingly said, "At least the American example no doubt stimulated Yugoslavia to recognize my King, without awaiting the action of France and England as Mr. Šumenković, the Acting Foreign Minister, sent word to me he would be obliged to do."

It is interesting to note that, although Mr. Šumenković had told me in a recent interview (See the Legation's despatch No. 488 of September 8, 1928)^a that he would await the action of France and England before recognizing the new regime at Tirana, he smilingly said to me yesterday, "We decided not to be dependent upon any other

^a Not printed.

nation's action in this matter, because we know that, if we wish to maintain good relations with Italy, we must recognize the new Albanian Kingdom sooner or later. Our present act we look upon as a friendly gesture to Italy, whom we have no desire to offend."

I have [etc.]

JOHN DYNELEY PRINCE

875.01/291

The Minister in Albania (Hart) to the Secretary of State

No. 525

TIRANA, September 27, 1928.

[Received October 10.]

SIR: I have the honor to report that in the order named Italy, Greece, Hungary, Uruguay, the United States, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, France and Great Britain have recognized the Albanian Kingdom.

After recognition by Uruguay a silence reigned for several days which became exceedingly oppressive to King Zog and his advisers. This spell was broken by the receipt on September 13, of President Coolidge's telegram of felicitation. The King sent at once to the Foreign Office for a translator and when the telegram was read to him all of official Tirana began to buzz. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, Ilias Vrioni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, asked an appointment and came to see me a half hour later, exhibiting the original telegram.

His face was lighted and he was in ecstasies. He handed me the telegram to read, as I had to confess that I had received no word from Washington. With all of his joy there was an underlying malice against Great Britain, France and Yugoslavia. He intimated that the American recognition would force the other powers to take notice. Then, as when I presented the formal note of recognition on September 15, he said this was the crowning diplomatic triumph of the new government.

The recognition of Italy he said had no special significance because Italy is an ally of Albania, and while Albania was pleased to have the acknowledgement of Greece and Hungary, their recognition failed to impress the world. "But", he continued, "when the greatest government on earth recognizes, the others will realize that it is time for them to find out what they are going to do."

Vrioni saw to it that everybody in official life in Tirana heard the news of President Coolidge's telegram before the night was over and the following morning representatives of most of the governments which had not recognized came early to see me and verify the report. It seemed to me that there was an atmosphere of gloom hovering over them because they believed that it might upset the consultations which they had heard were going on between Paris, London and Belgrade.

The Yugoslav government recognized on the same day that I delivered the formal note, and it is my opinion that immediately after American recognition the British and French governments suggested that Belgrade act favorably at once and without reservations. My French and British colleagues made no effort to veil the fact that their governments were studying the question of recognition jointly and that the stumbling block up to that time had been the title voted to the new monarch, "King of the Albanians."

While Great Britain and France recognized on September 21, it is my conviction that, if they did not make representations to the Royal Albanian Government, they agreed upon a joint policy to be pursued in the event that any new pacts with Italy are brought to light which threaten to cause another ruction in the Balkans. And I also can say most assuredly that even Italy had become just a little worried over the silence of Great Britain and France. And no doubt was left in my mind that the Italian Legation here was more than gratified when the United States recognized.

A demonstration was ordered to be held in front of the Legation on the evening of September 15. I invited the multitude to come into the Legation court. There were about 1,500 persons, headed by the Government's military band. The band first played the American and then the Albanian anthem and gave vociferous applause at which juncture nothing was left for me to do but make a speech, which I had not intended doing.

The Department will not receive a copy of the speech, which was entirely impromptu, but let it suffice to say that I said nothing that would do any harm. While it is the usual course for many foreigners, official and otherwise, when speaking to the people of this country, to treat the Albanians as children, I have never done that.

My policy adopted at the beginning of my career here was followed once again. I assumed that I was facing an assemblage of several hundred intellectual Babe Ruths and gave everyone of them a base on balls. An Albanian who is a graduate of the American Junior Red Cross School responded in genuine oratory.

The Constituent Assembly, meeting at irregular intervals, continues the work of revamping the Constitution. The Statute creating the monarchy, which is about the only finished product of the Assembly, is made an enclosure herewith.¹⁰ I quote here the reply of the Royal Government to my formal note of recognition:

Mr. Minister:

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 14th instant by which Your Excellency kindly informed me that the government of

¹⁰ Not printed.

the American Republic had taken note of the resolution of the Constituent Assembly of Albania concerning the establishment of the Monarchical régime in Albania and the elevation to the throne of His Majesty, Zog I, King of the Albanians.

This act of cordial friendship on the part of your honorable Government, recognizing, among the first, the new régime in Albania, is very much appreciated by the Royal Government and the Albanian people, who see in it one more testimonial of the sympathetic sentiments of the great Republic towards Albania.

I pray that Your Excellency be kind enough to interpret to His Government the warmest thanks and the profoundest gratitude of the Royal Government for this amiable action on the part of the Government of the Republic, an action which will add new forces to the cordial relations which exist so happily between our two countries.

I beg Your Excellency to kindly accept the assurances of my very high consideration.

The President of the Council,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, ad interim
K. Kotta

I have [etc.]

CHARLES C. HART

TREATIES OF ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ALBANIA, SIGNED OCTOBER 22, 1928

711.7512A/2: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Minister in Albania (Hart)

WASHINGTON, April 24, 1928—6 p. m.

10. The Secretary today handed to the Albanian Minister a draft of a proposed treaty of arbitration between the United States and Albania. The provisions of the draft operate to extend the policy of arbitration enunciated in the Arbitration Convention concluded in 1908 between the United States and several other countries. The language of the draft is identical in effect with that of the arbitration treaties recently signed with France and Italy¹¹ and with the draft arbitration treaty already submitted to other governments in the general program for the extension of these principles.

The Secretary also handed to the Minister a proposed draft of a conciliation treaty modeled after so-called Bryan treaties signed by the United States with many countries in 1913 and 1914.

Full texts are being forwarded in next pouch.¹²

KELLOGG

¹¹ See vol. II, pp. 816 ff. and vol. III, pp. 102 ff.

¹² Drafts not printed; both treaties were signed without change.

711.7512A/10

The Albanian Minister (Konitza) to the Secretary of State[WASHINGTON,] *October 9, 1928.*

SIR: With reference and as a sequel to my letter dated July 31, 1928,¹³ I have the honor to inform you that I have now received instructions to sign both the Treaty of Arbitration and the Treaty of Conciliation, and also the Treaty for the Renunciation of war.¹⁴ I have the honor to enclose a copy of the documents appointing me a Plenipotentiary for the signing of these treaties. I have the Albanian texts ready.

My Government having asked me to pay as soon as possible a visit to Tirana in connection with some internal affairs, I shall wait for the signing of these treaties and I will take them with me and hope to bring the ratifications when I come back on December.

Awaiting your pleasure, I take [etc.]

FAÏK KONITZA

Treaty Series No. 770

*Arbitration Treaty Between the United States of America and Albania, Signed at Washington, October 22, 1928*¹⁵

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the Albanians

Determined to prevent so far as in their power lies any interruption in the peaceful relations that have always existed between the two nations;

Desirous of reaffirming their adherence to the policy of submitting to impartial decision all justiciable controversies that may arise between them; and

Eager by their example not only to demonstrate their condemnation of war as an instrument of national policy in their mutual relations, but also to hasten the time when the perfection of international arrangements for the pacific settlement of international disputes shall have eliminated forever the possibility of war among any of the Powers of the world;

Have decided to conclude a treaty of arbitration and for that purpose they have appointed as their respective Plenipotentiaries

The President of the United States of America:

Mr. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and

¹³ Not printed.

¹⁴ See pp. 153 ff.

¹⁵ In English and Albanian; Albanian text not printed. Ratification advised by the Senate, Dec. 18, 1928 (legislative day of Dec. 17); ratified by the President, Jan. 4, 1929; ratified by Albania, Dec. 27, 1928; ratifications exchanged at Washington, Feb. 12, 1929; proclaimed by the President, Feb. 12, 1929.

His Majesty the King of the Albanians:

Mr. Faik Konitza, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Albania in the United States of America;

Who, having communicated to one another their full powers found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I

All differences relating to international matters in which the High Contracting Parties are concerned by virtue of a claim of right made by one against the other under treaty or otherwise, which it has not been possible to adjust by diplomacy, which have not been adjusted as a result of reference to an appropriate commission of conciliation, and which are justiciable in their nature by reason of being susceptible of decision by the application of the principles of law or equity, shall be submitted to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of October 18, 1907,¹⁶ or to some other competent tribunal, as shall be decided in each case by special agreement, which special agreement shall provide for the organization of such tribunal if necessary, define its powers, state the question or questions at issue, and settle the terms of reference.

The special agreement in each case shall be made on the part of the United States of America by the President of the United States of America by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and on the part of Albania in accordance with its constitutional laws.

ARTICLE II

The provisions of this treaty shall not be invoked in respect of any dispute the subject matter of which

(a) is within the domestic jurisdiction of either of the High Contracting Parties,

(b) involves the interests of third Parties,

(c) depends upon or involves the maintenance of the traditional attitude of the United States concerning American questions, commonly described as the Monroe Doctrine,

(d) depends upon or involves the observance of the obligations of Albania in accordance with the Covenant of the League of Nations.

ARTICLE III

The present treaty shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof and by Albania in accordance with its constitutional laws.

¹⁶ *Foreign Relations*, 1907, pt. 2, pp. 1181, 1188.

The ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible, and the treaty shall take effect on the date of the exchange of the ratifications. It shall thereafter remain in force continuously unless and until terminated by one year's written notice given by either High Contracting Party to the other.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty in duplicate in the English and Albanian languages, the English text to have authority in case of conflict between the two texts, and hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Washington the twenty-second day of October in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight.

FRANK B. KELLOGG	[SEAL]
FAÏK KONITZA	[SEAL]

Treaty Series No. 771

*Conciliation Treaty Between the United States of America and Albania, Signed at Washington, October 22, 1928*¹⁷

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of the Albanians, being desirous to strengthen the bonds of amity that bind them together and also to advance the cause of general peace, have resolved to enter into a treaty for that purpose, and to that end have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

The President of the United States of America:

Mr. Frank B. Kellogg, Secretary of State of the United States of America; and

His Majesty the King of the Albanians:

Mr. Faïk Konitza, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Albania in the United States of America;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found to be in proper form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:

ARTICLE I

Any disputes arising between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Albania, of whatever nature they may be, shall, when ordinary diplomatic proceedings have failed and the High Contracting Parties do not have recourse to adjudication by a competent tribunal, be submitted for investigation and report to a permanent International Commission constituted in the manner

¹⁷ In English and Albanian; Albanian text not printed. Ratification advised by the Senate, Dec. 20, 1928; ratified by the President, Jan. 4, 1929; ratified by Albania, Dec. 27, 1928; ratifications exchanged at Washington, Feb. 12, 1929; proclaimed by the President, Feb. 12, 1929.

prescribed in the next succeeding Article; and they agree not to declare war or begin hostilities during such investigation and before the report is submitted.

ARTICLE II

The International Commission shall be composed of five members, to be appointed as follows: One member shall be chosen from each country, by the Government thereof; one member shall be chosen by each Government from some third country; the fifth member shall be chosen by common agreement between the two Governments, it being understood that he shall not be a citizen of either country. The expenses of the Commission shall be paid by the two Governments in equal proportions.

The International Commission shall be appointed within six months after the exchange of ratifications of this treaty; and vacancies shall be filled according to the manner of the original appointment.

ARTICLE III

In case the High Contracting Parties shall have failed to adjust a dispute by diplomatic methods, and they do not have recourse to adjudication by a competent tribunal, they shall at once refer it to the International Commission for investigation and report. The International Commission may, however, spontaneously by unanimous agreement offer its services to that effect, and in such case it shall notify both Governments and request their cooperation in the investigation.

The High Contracting Parties agree to furnish the Permanent International Commission with all the means and facilities required for its investigation and report.

The report of the Commission shall be completed within one year after the date on which it shall declare its investigation to have begun, unless the High Contracting Parties shall limit or extend the time by mutual agreement. The report shall be prepared in triplicate; one copy shall be presented to each Government, and the third retained by the Commission for its files.

The High Contracting Parties reserve the right to act independently on the subject matter of the dispute after the report of the Commission shall have been submitted.

ARTICLE IV

The present treaty shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by Albania in accordance with its constitutional laws.

The ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as possible, and the treaty shall take effect on the date of the exchange of the ratifications. It shall thereafter remain in force continuously unless and until terminated by one year's written notice given by either High Contracting Party to the other.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty in duplicate in the English and Albanian languages, the English text to have authority in case of conflict between the two texts, and hereunto affixed their seals.

Done at Washington the twenty-second day of October, in the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight.

FRANK B. KELLOGG [SEAL]

FAÏK KONITZA [SEAL]