

“Secret Treaty of the Triple Alliance”

Art. 1. The Eastern Republic of Uruguay, His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil and the Republic of Argentina enter into an offensive and defensive Alliance in the war started by the government of Paraguay.

Art. 2. The allies will attend with ever mean they can dispose of, by land or by the rivers, according to necessity.

Art. 3. Having the hostilities to begin in the territory of the Republic of Argentina or in the adjacent Paraguayan territory, the command in chief and the direction of the allied armies are under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Argentina and chief commandant of its army, brigadier Bartolomé Mitre. The allied naval forces will be under the direct orders of the Vice Admiral Visconde de Tamandaré, commander in chief of H.M the Emperor of Brazil’s fleet. The land forces of H.M. the Emperor of Brazil shall form an army under the orders of its chief general, brigadier Manuel Luis Osorio. Despite the fact that the high signing parties are agreed in not changing the theatre of the war operations, all in all, as to preserve the sovereign rights of the three nations, they agree from now on to observe the principle of reciprocity regarding the chief command, given that case that those operations have to cross into eastern or Brazilian territory.

Art. 4. The interior order and the economy of the troops are under the sole charge of their respective leaders. The salary, provisions, war munitions, weapons, clothing, equipment and means of transport of the allied troops shall the responsibility of their corresponding states.

Art. 5. The high signing parties shall facilitate mutually any aid they have and those they would need, in the form in which it was agreed.

Art. 6. The allies solemnly commit themselves no to abandon arms unless commonly agreed, and as long as they haven’t overthrown the current government of Paraguay, as well as not to try separately, nor sign any peace treaty, truce, armistice which would put an end to or suspend the war, unless agreed by all parties.

Art. 7. Being the war not against the Paraguayan people but against their government, the allies are able to admit in a Paraguayan Legion every citizen of this nation who would want to attend to the overthrowing of said government, and will provide them with the elements they would need, in the form and conditions agreed upon.

Art. 8. The allies commit to respecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Paraguay. In consequence the Paraguayan people shall choose the government and institutions best suited for them, without incorporating themselves or requesting protection from any of the allies, as a result of the war.

Art. 9. The independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic shall be guaranteed collectively, according to the previous article, by the signing high parties, for a term of five years.

Art. 10. It is agreed among the signing high parties that the extensions, privileges or concessions obtained from the government of Paraguay shall be common to all of them, freely if they were free, and with the same compensation if they were conditional.

Art. 11. After the government of Paraguay is overthrown, the allies shall proceed to make the necessary arrangements with the constituted authorities, as to ensure the free navigation of the Parana and Paraguay Rivers, in a way that the rules and laws of that republic would not obstacle, impede or tax the direct transit and navigation of the merchant or war ships of the Allied States, which are headed to their respective territories or dominions which do not belong to Paraguay, and shall take the convenient guarantees towards the effectiveness of said arrangements, under the base that those fluvial policy rules, be them for both rivers or also for the Uruguay, shall be dictated in common agreement among the allies and whichever other riverside states who, within the term agreed on by the allies, accept the invitation proposed to them.

Art. 12. The allies reserve for themselves to arrange the most convenient measures as to guarantee peace with the Republic of Paraguay after the overthrowing of the current government.

Art. 13. The allies shall name opportunely the plenipotentiaries who shall execute the arrangements, conventions or treaties provided, with the government established in Paraguay.

Art. 14. The allies shall demand from that government the payment of the war expenses which they have been forced to accept, as well as the repairing and indenisation of the damages and detriments caused to their public and private properties and to their citizen's persons, without express war declaration, and for the damages and detriments subsequently caused in violation of the principles which govern the laws of war. The Eastern Republic of Uruguay shall demand as well an indenisation proportionate to the damages and detriments caused by the government of Paraguay by the war to which it has been forced to enter, in defence of their security threatened by said government.

Art. 15. In a special convention the, method and form for the settlements and payment of the debt due from the aforementioned causes shall be determined.

Art. 16. In order to avoid discussions and wars on the issue of the borders, it is established that the allies shall demand of the government of Paraguay the signing of definite limit treaties with the respective governments under the following conditions: The Republic of Argentina shall be divided from the Republic of Paraguay, by the Parana and Paraguay rivers, until reaching the limits of the Empire of Brazil, being

these on the western riverside of the Paraguay River, the Bahia Negra. The Empire of Brazil shall be divided from the Republic of Paraguay, in the Parana region, by the first river after the Seven Falls waterfalls which, according to the recent map of Mouchez, is the Igurey, and from the mouth of the Igurey and its higher course up to its source. On the left riverside region of the Paraguay River, by the Apa River, from its mouth up to its source. On the inside, from the summit of the Mbaracaryu Range, the eastern watersheds belonging to Brazil and the western ones to Paraguay, and drawing lines, as straight as possible, from said range up to the source of the Apa and Igurey rivers.

Art. 17. The allies guarantee mutually to each other the faithful fulfilment of the agreements, arrangements and treaties to be held with the government that will be established in Paraguay, in virtue of the agreed in this alliance treaty, which will remain always in full strength and vigour, to the effect that these stipulations shall be respected by the Republic of Paraguay. As to obtain this result, they agree that, in the case that one of the signing high parties could not obtain from the government of Paraguay the agreed fulfilment, or that this government should try to annul the stipulations adjusted with the allies, the others shall employ actively their efforts to uphold them. If those efforts were proven ineffective, the allies shall attend with all their means, to the end of making the execution of what is stipulated effective.

Art. 18. This treaty shall remain secret until the main objective of the alliance has been obtained.

Art. 19. This treaty's stipulations which do not require legislative authorization for their ratification, shall begin to have effect as soon as they are approved by their respective governments, and the others from the change of the ratifications, which will take place within the term of forty days from the day of said treaty, or sooner if possible.

In testimony of which the signors below, plenipotentiaries of H.E. the President of the Republic of Argentina, of H.M. the Emperor of Brazil and H.E. the Provisional Governor of the Eastern Republic, in virtue of our full powers, we sign this treaty and affix our seals in the City of Buenos Aires, the 1 May of the year of Our Lord 1865.