

## **TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BULGARIA AND TURKEY. SIGNED AT ANGORA, OCTOBER 18, 1925**

BULGARIA, of the one part, and TURKEY, of the other part, being equally and sincerely desirous of establishing and strengthening the ties of sincere friendship between the Turkish Republic and the Kingdom of Bulgaria, and equally convinced that such relations between the two States, when once established, will further the prosperity and well-being of their respective nations, have decided to conclude a treaty of friendship and for this purpose have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC:

Tevfik KIAMIL Bey, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BULGARIANS:

M. Siméon RADEFF, Bulgarian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

### ***Article 1.***

There shall be inviolable peace and sincere and perpetual friendship between the Turkish Republic and the Kingdom of Bulgaria.

### ***Article 2.***

The High Contracting Parties agree to establish diplomatic relations between the two States in conformity with the principles of international law. They agree that the diplomatic representatives of each of them shall, subject to reciprocity, receive in the territory of the other the treatment recognised by the principles of general international public law.

### ***Article 3.***

The High Contracting Parties agree to conclude a commercial convention, a convention concerning conditions of residence and business and a treaty of arbitration.

### ***Article 4.***

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Angora as soon as possible. It shall come into force on the fifteenth day following the exchange of the ratifications.

### ***Article 5.***

The Protocol attached to the present Treaty shall form an integral part of this Treaty.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Angora, October 18, 1925.

(Signed) Siméon RADEFF.

(Signed) Tevfik KIAMIL.

**PROTOCOL**  
**ANNEXED TO THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BULGARIA AND TURKEY.**

**A.**

The two Governments undertake to ensure that Moslem minorities in Bulgaria shall benefit by all the provisions concerning the protection of minorities laid down in the Treaty of Neuilly, and that Bulgarian minorities in Turkey shall benefit by all the provisions concerning the protection of minorities laid down in the Treaty of Lausanne.

Bulgaria acknowledges that Turkey, and Turkey acknowledges that Bulgaria, possesses all the rights conferred under the minority clauses on the Powers which signed the Treaties of Neuilly and Lausanne respectively.

Note. — Turkish nationals of the Christian faith whose mother-tongue is Bulgarian shall be regarded as belonging to the Bulgarian minority.

**B.**

The Turkish Government recognises as Bulgarian nationals all Bulgarians born in Turkish territory as it was in 1912 who, previous to the signature of the present Protocol, have emigrated to Bulgaria and acquired Bulgarian nationality under the laws of the Kingdom of Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Government recognises as Turkish nationals all Moslems born within the frontiers of Bulgaria as they were in 1912 who, previous to the signature of the present Protocol, have emigrated to Turkey and acquired Turkish nationality under the laws of the Turkish Republic.

Married women shall possess the same status as their husbands, and children under 18 years of age shall possess the same status as their fathers.

It is understood that Turkish and Bulgarian nationals of the two above-mentioned categories shall remain in possession of their rights of ownership over property situated respectively in Bulgaria and in Turkey, except the categories mentioned in Article C.

In the case of Bulgarians born in the territory of European Turkey – the city of Constantinople excepted – who have emigrated to Bulgaria and desire to take up their residence again in the above-mentioned territory, the Turkish Government reserves its entire liberty to grant or refuse in each particular case its consent to such action.

The Bulgarian Government reserves exactly the same right with regard to Moslems born in the districts annexed to Bulgaria in 1913, who have emigrated to Turkey, and desire to take up their residence again in the above-mentioned territory.

Note. — For the purposes of the present Protocol, Constantinople shall be taken to include the districts of the Prefecture of Constantinople, as delimited by the law of 1912.

**C.**

Immovable property of every kind belonging to Bulgarians whose country of origin was the European territory of the Turkish Republic, the city of Constantinople being excepted, who, subsequent to October 5 – 18, 1912, and previous to the signature of the present Protocol have immigrated to Bulgaria, and immovable property of every kind belonging to Moslems whose countries of origin were the territories detached from the Ottoman Empire as a result of the Balkan war, and who, subsequent to October 5 – 18, 1912, and previous to the signature of the present Protocol have immigrated to Turkey, shall pass respectively into the possession of the State in whose territory they are situated.

**D.**

Immovable property of every kind situated in Bulgaria and belonging to Turkish nationals, or situated in Turkey and belonging to Bulgarian nationals, to which the provisions of the preceding Article do not apply shall, if their lawful owners are not at present in possession, be restored to the latter, their heirs and assigns or agents. All extraordinary measures and provisions which may, for any reason whatever, have been applied to the property in question shall be rescinded as soon as the present Protocol comes into force.

The revenue derived from any property which may have been sequestered, shall be paid back in full to the owners.

In the case of property occupied by immigrants or local inhabitants, the owners shall be paid an equitable rental.

The persons concerned shall be obliged reciprocally before the Courts of the two countries to establish, by all legal methods of proof, the fact that they left their country of origin previous to October 5 – 18, 1912.

It must be clearly understood that all the above clauses also apply, according to the case to which they refer, to the property of persons mentioned in the first two paragraphs of Article B.

**E.**

Rights acquired previous to the annexation of the new Bulgarian territory, and judicial acts, and official title-deeds issued by the competent authorities of the Ottoman Empire, shall be respected and deemed inviolable until legal proof is brought to the contrary.

**F.**

The two Contracting Parties agree to consider as null and entirely void the provisions of the Treaty of Constantinople and its Annexes, except such as fix the frontier between the two States.

**G.**

The letter addressed by the Bulgarian Plenipotentiary to the Turkish Plenipotentiary regarding the method of applying to Turkish nationals in Bulgaria the Law on the landed property of Labour shall form an integral part of the present Protocol and shall come into force at the same time.

**H.**

Any difficulties which might arise in regard to the application of the present Protocol shall form the subject of diplomatic negotiations between the two Governments.

Done at Angora, in duplicate, on October 18, 1925.

(Signed) S. RADEFF.

(Signed) T. KIAMIL.

The undersigned Turkish and Bulgarian Envoys Plenipotentiary have met this day, the eighteenth of October, 1925, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Angora, to sign the acts which have been drawn up between the two Governments, namely: a Treaty of friendship, the annexed Protocol which forms an integral part of the Treaty, and a convention concerning conditions of residence and business.

Recognising that it would be desirable further to define the meaning of Article "D" of the annexed Protocol so as to leave no doubt regarding the reciprocal good will of their Governments, they state, on behalf of the latter, that the restoration of property as provided in the clauses of this Article will be carried out without either Party raising any objection thereto.

The present procès-verbal has been drawn up in duplicate.

(Signed) S. RADEFF.

(Signed) Tevfik KIAMIL.

### **BEILAGE**

ANGORA, October 18, 1925.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In order to meet the wish which you expressed in the course of our negotiations, I have the honour to confirm the fact that my Government undertakes to apply absolutely to the property of Turkish nationals in Bulgaria who have been expropriated under the Law on the landed property of Labour the Arrangement which it has concluded regarding the application of this Law with the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) S. RADEFF.

Tevfik Kiamil Bey,  
Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Angora.

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