

No. 3461

**SYRIA
and
EGYPT**

Joint Defence Agreement (with exchange of letters and annex). Signed at Damascus, on 20 October 1955

Official text: Arabic.

Registered by Syria on 5 July 1956.

**SYRIE
et
ÉGYPTE**

Accord de défense commune (avec échange de lettres et annexe). Signé à Damas, le 20 octobre 1955

Texte officiel arabe.

Enregistré par la Syrie le 5 juillet 1956.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3461. JOINT DEFENCE AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT. SIGNED AT DAMASCUS, ON 20 OCTOBER 1955

The Governments of Syria and Egypt,

With a view to strengthening the principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States² and reaffirming the loyalty of the contracting States to those principles,

Desiring to develop and strengthen military co-operation between them with a view to protecting the independence of their two countries and safeguarding their security ; firmly believing that the establishment of a security system common to their two countries will constitute a major factor in guaranteeing the security and independence of each ; wishing to achieve their desire for their common defence and the maintenance of security and peace in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Pact of the League of Arab States and the Charter of the United Nations,

And pursuant to the provisions of the first paragraph of article 9 of the Pact of the League of Arab States,

Have resolved to conclude an agreement for that purpose and have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

For the Government of the Syrian Republic :

His Excellency Mr. Rashad Barmada, Minister of National Defence,

For the Government of the Republic of Egypt :

His Excellency General Mahmoud Riad, Egyptian Ambassador to Syria,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The two Contracting States affirm their desire for the maintenance of security and peace and their determination and resolve to settle all their international disputes by peaceful means.

Article 2

The two Contracting States consider any armed attack against either State or its forces as an attack against both. Accordingly, and in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence, they undertake to hasten to each other's

¹ Came into force on 6 November 1955 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Damascus, in accordance with article 13.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 70, p. 237.

assistance in case of an attack and to take immediately all appropriate measures and use all the means at their disposal, including armed force, to repel the attack and to restore security and peace.

In accordance with article 6 of the Pact of the League of Arab States and Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the attack, and the measures and procedures adopted to repel it, shall be immediately reported to the Council of the League and to the Security Council.

Each Contracting State undertakes not to conclude a separate peace or to enter into any agreement with the aggressor without the consent of the other.

Article 3

The two Contracting States shall, at the request of either of them, consult together whenever international relations are seriously strained and disrupted in a manner affecting the territorial integrity or independence of either of them.

In the event of an imminent threat of war or of a sudden dangerous emergency, the two Contracting States shall immediately take the preventive and defensive measures required by the situation.

Article 4

In the event of a sudden attack on the frontiers or the forces of either Contracting State, the two States shall immediately determine the necessary measures to put the provisions of this Agreement into effect, in addition to the military measures taken to meet the attack.

Article 5

With a view to accomplishing the purposes of this Agreement, the two Contracting States have agreed to establish the following bodies :

- A Supreme Council ;
- A War Council ;
- A Joint Command.

Article 6

1. The Supreme Council shall consist of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of War (or Defence) of the Contracting States. The Council shall constitute the official authority to which the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Command shall be subordinate and from which he shall receive all higher directives on military policy. The Council shall have the power to appoint and dismiss the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The Supreme Council shall, on the proposal of the War Council, determine the organization, functions and duties of the Joint Command. It shall be competent to make changes therein on the proposal of the War Council. The Supreme Council shall have the right to set up committees and subsidiary and provisional bodies as required.

3. The Supreme Council shall be competent to examine the recommendations and decisions of the War Council in all matters not within the jurisdiction of the Chiefs of Staff.

4. The Supreme Council shall issue rules of procedure for its meetings and for the work of the War Council.

Article 7

1. The War Council shall consist of the Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Army and the Chief of the General Staff of the Syrian Army. It shall act as the advisory body to the Supreme Council. It shall be competent to submit recommendations and directives in matters related to military planning and any of the tasks or functions assigned to the Joint Command.

2. The War Council shall make recommendations concerning war industries and communications facilities required for military purposes, their co-ordination and utilization in the service of the armed forces, and all related matters in the two Contracting States.

3. The War Council shall examine the programmes prepared by the Joint Command for the training, organization, arming and equipment of the forces placed under its command. It shall also study the possibilities of applying those programmes to all the armed forces of the two Contracting States and take appropriate measures to carry them out. It shall submit to the Supreme Council any measure in respect of which it considers the Council's approval necessary.

4. The War Council shall be assisted by a permanent military body to carry out all studies and preparatory work on matters and subjects referred to it. The Council shall prepare rules of procedure to govern the work of this body, and shall draw up its own budget.

Article 8

1. The Joint Command shall consist of :

- (a) The Commander-in-Chief ;
- (b) The General Staff ;
- (c) The units assigned to the Joint Command for its security and the conduct of its activities. The Joint Command shall be permanent in character, functioning both in time of peace and in time of war.

2. The Commander-in-Chief shall command the forces placed under his orders. He shall be answerable to the Supreme Council.

3. The Commander-in-Chief shall have the following duties :

- (a) To prepare and carry out programmes for the training, organization, arming and equipment of the forces placed under his command by the two Contracting States with a view to making them a unified force ; to submit these programmes to the War Council which shall examine them or refer them to the Supreme Council for approval.
- (b) To prepare and carry out joint defence plans to meet all eventualities arising out of any armed attack against either of the two States or their armed forces. In preparing these plans, he shall comply with the decisions and directives of the Supreme Council.
- (c) To distribute the armed forces which the two Contracting States shall place under his command in time of peace and in time of war, in accordance with joint defense plans.
- (d) To prepare the budget of the Joint Command and submit it to the War Council for examination prior to final approval by the Supreme Council.

4. The principal assistants of the Commander-in-Chief shall be appointed and dismissed by the War Council in agreement with the Commander-in-Chief. All other members of the Joint Command staff shall be appointed by agreement between the Commander-in-Chief and the Chief of Staff of the army concerned.

Article 9

1. The two Contracting States shall place at the disposal of the Joint Command :

- a) In time of peace : such forces as the War Council, in agreement with the Commander-in-Chief, considers it necessary to place under his command, subject to approval by the Supreme Council ;
- (b) In time of war : all the forces which the two States have on a war footing ;
- (c) The forces concentrated on the Palestine frontiers shall be deemed to come automatically under the command of the Commander-in-Chief.

2. The War Council shall, on the proposal of the Commander-in-Chief, determine the installations and bases necessary to carry out the plans, and the priorities for their construction.

Article 10

1. A joint fund, to which both Contracting States shall contribute, shall be established to defray :

- (a) The expenses of the Joint Command, which shall be shared equally by the two States ;

(b) The cost of the military installations referred to in article 9, paragraph 2, which shall be borne in the following proportions :

35 per cent by the Syrian Republic ; and

65 per cent by the Republic of Egypt.

2. Each Contracting State shall pay the salaries and allowances of the military and civilian staff assigned by it to the Joint Command, the War Council and other committees, in accordance with its own financial regulations.

Article 11

Nothing in this Agreement shall in any way affect or be intended to affect the rights and obligations devolving upon the two Contracting States under the Charter of the United Nations, or the responsibilities of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 12

This Agreement is concluded for a period of five years and shall be automatically renewable thereafter for further periods of five years.

Either of the Contracting States may terminate this Agreement by giving notice in writing to the other State one year before the expiry of any of the said five-year periods.

Article 13

The present Agreement shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional procedure of each of the Contracting States. The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Damascus not later than thirty days from the date of signature of the Agreement, which shall enter into force immediately after the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

DONE at Damascus, on 4 Rabi al Awwal of the Hegira year 1375, corresponding to 20 October 1955, in two copies, one for each Party.

For the Syrian Republic :
(Signed) RASHAD BARMADA
Minister of National Defence

For the Republic of Egypt :
(Signed) MAHMOUD RIAD
Ambassador of the Republic
of Egypt to the Syrian Republic

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I

Damascus, 20 October 1955

Your Excellency,

With reference to the Joint Defence Agreement signed at Damascus on 20 October 1955¹ between the Government of the Syrian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Egypt, I have the honour to inform you that my Government will not require the Syrian Government to pay any part of the costs relating to military installations in Egyptian territory or in Palestine territory under the control of the Egyptian forces.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) MAHMOUD RIAD
Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt

His Excellency the Minister of National Defence
of the Syrian Republic

II

Damascus, 20 October 1955

Your Excellency,

With reference to your letter of 20 October 1955, which reads as follows :

[See letter I]

I have the honour to inform you that on behalf of my Government I approve the text of the above letter.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) RASHAD BARMADA
Minister of National Defence

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt

ANNEX

The two Contracting Parties declare that the Joint Defence Agreement signed between their two countries does not cancel their obligations under the Treaty of Mutual Defence and Economic Co-operation concluded between the States of the Arab League.

For the Government
of the Syrian Republic :
(Signed) RASHAD BARMADA

For the Government
of the Republic of Egypt :
(Signed) MAHMOUD RIAD

¹ See p. 126 of this volume.