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Title Convention
for the Regulation of
Aerial Navigation
1919

AIR MINISTRY

CONVENTION

PORTANT

RÉGLEMENTATION DE LA NAVIGATION
AÉRIENNE.

(13 OCTOBRE 1919)

CONVENTION

FOR THE

REGULATION OF AERIAL NAVIGATION.

(13 OCTOBER 1919)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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PREFATORY NOTE

The differences between the final Convention and that printed in Cmd Paper No. 266 are due to the revision of the Instrument by the general Drafting Committee of the Peace Conference. The majority of the alterations are changes of wording, mainly of an editorial character, and inserted from a legal standpoint. There are, however, two substantial changes which deserve particular mention.

Article 18 of the original Convention prevented any seizure or detention of an aircraft of one State when passing through the territory of another on the ground that the constitution or mechanism of the aircraft constituted any infringement of a patent, design, or model duly granted or registered in the State through which the aircraft was passing. Owing to reservations made by two great Powers in respect of this Article, it was necessary to amend it to ensure an agreed text. A compromise was arrived at as shown in Article 18 of the new text, the effect of which is to grant the State interested in the patent the right of detaining the aircraft, provided the aircraft is immediately released upon the deposit of adequate security.

The second alteration of principle was the entire deletion of Article 23 of the original text, which defined the legal position of an aircraft and the legal relations of persons on board that aircraft while engaged in an inter-state flight. Objections were made to this Article by other Powers on the ground that the doctrine of territorial sovereignty asserted in Article 1 of the Convention was sufficiently broad to cover all the questions dealt with in Article 23, and therefore that Article 23 was unnecessary. The Article was consequently removed from the Convention altogether.

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