

E 13 (B)/10

*Der schweizerische Gesandte in London, G. Carlin, an den Bundespräsidenten
und Vorsteher des Politischen Departementes, R. Comtesse*

S handschriftlich

Londres, 10 octobre 1904

En me référant à Votre dépêche du 13 Août dernier, j'ose exprimer l'espoir que le Conseil Fédéral ne verra pas d'objection à m'autoriser à signer le traité d'arbitrage dont deux projets accompagnaient mon office du 11 Août¹. Selon moi, il n'y aurait aucune raison de renvoyer la conclusion de cette entente. Il me semble que nous pouvons très bien commencer par la Grande-Bretagne, laquelle s'est toujours montrée beaucoup plus soucieuse de notre liberté et de notre indépendance que certaines autres Puissances, qui ont cherché et cherchent encore à exercer sur la Confédération une influence difficilement compatible avec sa dignité et son absolue souveraineté.

En outre, il me serait personnellement agréable de pouvoir, si possible,

1. *Zum englischen Vertragsvorschlag siehe Annex.*

10. OKTOBER 1904

terminer cette affaire avant de me rendre à La Haye, où la Reine doit rentrer vers la mi-Novembre.

ANNEX

Projekt eines Schiedsvertrages des englischen Aussenministeriums vom 4. Juli 1904

The Government of His Britannic Majesty and the Government of the Swiss Confederation, Signatories of the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, concluded at The Hague on the 29th July, 1899:

Taking into consideration that, by Article XIX of that Convention, the High Contracting Parties have reserved to themselves the right of concluding Agreements, with a view to referring to arbitration all questions which they shall consider possible to submit to such treatment,

Have authorized the Undersigned to conclude the following arrangement:

Article I.

Differences which may arise of a legal nature, or relating to the interpretation of Treaties existing between the two Contracting Parties, and which it may not have been possible to settle by diplomacy, shall be referred to the Permanent Court of Arbitration established at The Hague by the Convention of the 29th July, 1899, provided, nevertheless, that they do not affect the vital interests, the independence, or the honour of the two Contracting States, and do not concern the interests of third Parties.

Article II.

In each individual case the High Contracting Parties, before appealing to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, shall conclude a special Agreement defining clearly the matter in dispute, the scope of the powers of the Arbitrators, and the periods to be fixed for the formation of the Arbitral Tribunal and the several stages of the procedure.

Article III.

The present Agreement is concluded for a period of five years, dating from the day of signature.
Done in duplicate at London, the day of ..., 1904.