

ARTICLE 8.

Subject to the provisions of Article 9, no civil or commercial action, no action in matters of personal status, and no criminal cause shall be instituted before any Consular Court in Egypt after the 15th October, 1937.

Proceedings already brought prior to the above date in any such courts shall be continued before them until finally disposed of, unless they are remitted to the Mixed Tribunals under the conditions specified in Article 53 of the *Règlement d'organisation judiciaire*.

ARTICLE 9.

Any of the High Contracting Parties who possess at present Consular Courts in Egypt, may retain such courts for the purposes of jurisdiction in matters of personal status in all cases in which the law applicable is the national law of the High Contracting Party concerned.

Any such High Contracting Party who desires to exercise the above right shall notify the Royal Egyptian Government to this effect at the time of the deposit of his instrument of ratification of the present Convention.

At any time during the transition period any High Contracting Party may make a declaration renouncing his consular jurisdiction. Such declaration shall take effect as from the 15th October following the date on which it is made. No new proceeding shall be entertained after the date on which a renunciation of jurisdiction takes effect, but any proceeding already instituted may be continued until finally disposed of.

No Consular Court shall be maintained after the 14th October, 1949. On that date all proceedings pending before the said Consular Courts shall be remitted to the National Tribunals at the stage they have then reached.

ARTICLE 10.

In matters of personal status, the jurisdiction which is competent shall be determined by the law to be applied.

The expression "personal status" refers to the matters specified in Article 28 of the *Règlement d'organisation judiciaire mixte*.

The law to be applied shall be ascertained in conformity with the rules set out in Articles 29 and 30 of the said *Règlement*.

ARTICLE 11.

Without prejudice to the exceptions recognized by international law, foreign consuls shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals. In particular, they may not be prosecuted in respect of acts performed by them in the performance of their official duties.

Subject to reciprocity, they shall exercise the powers customarily granted to consuls as regards registration in matters of personal status, as regards contracts of marriage and other notarial acts, inheritance, the representation before the Courts of the interests of their absent nationals and maritime navigation, and shall enjoy personal immunity.

Until Consular Conventions are concluded, and in any case during a period of three years as from the date of the signature of the present Convention, consuls shall continue to enjoy the immunities which they possess at present in respect of consular premises and in the matter of taxes, customs duties and other public dues.

ARTICLE 12.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to maintain in Egypt, during the transition period, all the judicial records of their Consular Courts.