

the country continue to be closely associated with those of France. Tunisia remains in the franc area and will form a customs union with France. French financial and technical assistance is provided to assure the continued economic and social progress of Tunisia. An annual programme of capital investments will be prepared by agreement of the two Governments.

Although France retains control of Tunisian defence and foreign affairs, the Conventions provide for a significant degree of Franco-Tunisian co-operation in these fields. A high committee for defence will be set up under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Tunisia. The committee will include the officer commanding French troops who will serve as the Bey's Minister of Defence. Frontier security is the responsibility of France. The French Army remains in the military installations in the Bizerte-Ferryville area and will occupy the frontier zone in the southern part of Tunisia bordering on Libya and Algeria. With respect to foreign affairs, France has agreed to consult and inform the Tunisian Government on questions affecting Tunisian interests. France will sponsor Tunisia's candidacy for membership in international organizations including, specifically, UNESCO and the International Labour Organization. Tunisian trade officials will be assigned by the Tunisian Government to serve with French commercial representatives abroad.

Rights and Interests

A number of provisions in the Conventions deal with the rights and interests of the 200,000 French nationals who live in Tunisia and of Tunisians residing in France. French nationals retain their own personal status and their interests will be protected by the High Commissioner of France. The French are free to continue to practice their religious, cultural and commercial activities but their participation in public life is restricted to municipal affairs and the mixed Chambers of Commerce. A French Cultural Mission is responsible for the direction of educational institutions and cultural organizations of the French Government in Tunisia. French and Tunisian nationals may travel in both countries, establish residence and earn their living with full freedom in accordance with labour and security regulations.

The Franco-Tunisian Conventions were approved with large majorities in the French National Assembly and the Council of the Republic and were greeted with enthusiasm in Tunisia. Prime Minister Tamar ben Ammar described the agreement as marking the full restoration of Franco-Tunisian friendship and expressed the conviction that a new age of happiness, prosperity, and liberty had begun for Tunisia. The successful conclusion of the Franco-Tunisian negotiations is of great significance not only to the future relations between the two countries but also to the tranquility and security of the Mediterranean area. The calm in Tunisia which has contrasted so sharply with the outbreaks of violence during recent months in the neighbouring North African territories of France, is a tribute to the constructive policies and moderation of the French and Tunisians. It is an example of the progress that can be achieved through an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary process of development in dependent territories.

The Tunisian Government has announced its intention of establishing a constitutional monarchy under the Bey of Tunis and of calling elections for a

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