

The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, the French Republic, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Yugoslavia

of the one part,

and

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

of the other part.

Desiring to remove obstacles to normal economic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and other countries and thereby to make a contribution to the development of a prosperous community of nations;

Considering that, for about twenty years, payments on German external debts have not, in general, conformed to the contractual terms; that from 1939 to 1945 the existence of a state of war prevented any payments from being made with respect to many of such debts; that since 1945 such payments have been generally suspended; and that the Federal Republic of Germany desires to put an end to this situation;

Considering that France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have, since 8th May, 1945, furnished to Germany economic assistance which has substantially contributed to the rebuilding of the German economy, with the effect of facilitating a resumption of payments on the German external debts;

Considering that on 6th March, 1951, an exchange of letters (copies of which are contained in Appendix A to the present Agreement) took place between the Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, which constitutes the basis on which have been established the present Agreement for the settlement of German external debts (with its Annexes) and the agreements for the settlement of the debts arising out of the economic assistance furnished to Germany;

Considering that the Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America set up a Commission entitled the Tripartite Commission on German Debts for the purpose of preparing for and working out, with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, with other interested Governments and with representatives of creditor and debtor interests, a plan for the orderly overall settlement of German external debts;

Considering that this Commission informed the representatives of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany that the Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were prepared to make important concessions with respect to the priority of their claims for post-war economic assistance over all other foreign claims against Germany and German nationals and with respect to the total amount of these claims, on condition that a