

vessel. The fact of such document having been exhibited shall then be indorsed upon it immediately. Further formal statements of the facts may be prepared by the said officers, whatever may be the nationality of the vessel incriminated. These formal statements shall be drawn up in the form and in the language used in the country to which the officer making them belongs; they may be considered in the country where they are adduced, as evidence in accordance with the laws of that country. The accused and the witnesses shall have the right to add, or to have added thereto, in their own language, any explanations they may consider useful. These declarations shall be duly signed.

#### ARTICLE XI

The proceedings and trial in cases of infraction of the provisions of the present Convention shall always take place as summarily as the laws and regulations in force will permit.

#### ARTICLE XII

The high contracting parties engage to take or to propose to their respective legislatures the necessary measures for insuring the execution of the present Convention, and especially for punishing, by either fine or imprisonment, or both, those who contravene the provisions of Articles II, V and VI.

#### ARTICLE XIII

The high contracting parties will communicate to each other laws already made, or which may hereafter be made, in their respective countries relating to the object of the present Convention.

#### ARTICLE XIV

States which have not signed the present Convention may adhere to it on making a request to that effect. This adhesion shall be notified through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the French Republic, and by the latter to the other signatory powers.

#### ARTICLE XV

It is understood that the stipulations of the present Convention do not in any way restrict the freedom of action of belligerents.

#### ARTICLE XVI

The present Convention shall be brought into force on a day to be agreed upon by the high contracting parties.

It shall remain in force for five years from that day, and unless any of the high contracting parties have announced, twelve months before the expiration of the said period of five years, its intention to terminate its operation, it shall continue in force for a period of one year, and so on from year to year.

If one of the signatory powers denounce the Convention, such denunciation shall have effect only as regards that power.

#### ARTICLE XVII

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Paris with as little delay as possible, and, at the latest, at the expiration of a year.