***Delegation From Represented By*Kingdom of Italy Jennine Punzalan, Roy Tannar**

***Position Paper for the Conference of Lausanne***

The Kingdom of Italy welcomes the opportunity to maintain strong relations with the allied nations through the proceedings of the Lausanne Conference. Keeping in mind aspects of the Treaty of Ouchy, the Treaty of Sevres, the London Pact, and the Tripartite Agreement which are tantamount for the success of the Treaty of Lausanne in regards to the Mediterranean region. The Kingdom of Italy has committed wholly to the Allied cause, sacrificing men and other resources, only to be been disregarded in the Paris Peace Conference. Recognition of the contribution of the Kingdom of Italy is paramount for the continuing support of the Kingdom to the Allied states. In seeking equal rights, *piede di parita*, the Kingdom of Italy will not accept treatment as a lesser power, and will strive for equal standing to the French and English delegation. No longer will the Kingdom of Italy be viewed as a passive power, but instead a strong Mediterranean nation. The Kingdom of Italy’s sacrifice in the Great War warrants its status.

1. **Recognition of Turkey**

The Kingdom of Italy recognizes the new nation of Turkey, and welcomes it as a new actor in the conference, and in the Mediterranean. Being a new nation of its own, the Kingdom of Italy supports the Turkish delegation in their efforts to create a strong and vast Turkey. As previously outlined in March of 1922, The the kingdom has offered Turkey a farther reaching Eastern Border than proposed by the British. This new border has proven the Kingdom of Italy’s support of a strong and independent Turkish state. The Kingdom of Italy has full respect for the French delegation and wishes their support in promoting the nation of Turkey’s best interest. It is the opinion of the Kingdom of Italy that the French delegation is reasonable in their requests and full support will be provided for France[[1]](#footnote-1). The nation of France has generated reasonable requests, which have worked towards the best interest of the new state of Turkey. The Kingdom of Italy finds themselves fully supports France and their efforts in ratifying this agreement. In addition, the Kingdom of Italy desires that all nations be treated equally in the division of the Ottoman Empire.

**II. Dodecanese Question**

The Kingdom of Italy rejects the British assertion that the Dodecanese question is to be addressed by the Allied nations. The Dodecanese Isles constitutes a bilateral agreement between Italy and Greece. It has become clear to the Kingdom of Italy that the Bonin-Venizelos agreement, which promised the Dodecanese Isles to be returned to the Greek Nation, has been voided in light of recent circumstances. The Isles first granted to the Kingdom of Italy under the Treaty of Ouchy, have been maintained and were vital for Italian support in the Great War. In this light, the Kingdom of Italy supports the transfer of Article 115 of the Treaty of Sevres into the Treaty of Lausanne[[2]](#footnote-2). Questions regarding the Dodecanese Isles should be no longer politicized and should be handled bilaterally. This has already been recognized by Turkey, and thus it should no longer be a multilateral issue.[[3]](#footnote-3) Furthermore, the Kingdom of Italy hopes to settle the dispute with Turkey regarding the island of Kastellorizo. While geographically in close proximity to Turkey, the Italian delegation reasserts the position that the island was already ceded to Italy in the Treaty of Sèvres, an agreement that would best be transferred to the Treaty of Lausanne. Through maintaining the policies outlined above, Turkey will gain significant territory in Eastern Europe, thus benefiting the new newly formed nation and showing goodwill, while simultaneously keeping keeping the Mediterranean status in its best possible position.

**III. Colonial Mandates and Territories**

The defeat of the Ottoman Empire has left many peoples and territories in chaos, as the Ottoman Empire has proved itself incapable of managing the Middle East. It is therefore only appropriate that these territories be placed under mandates for the management of the victorious Allies. However, the Kingdom of Italy is concerned at the lack of fair division of these mandates among all the Allies, as only Britain and France have received mandates of previous Ottoman territories. As an equal partner in the war effort, the Kingdom of Italy demands a just, equal share for all nations. The mandate of Iraq presents a unique opportunity for Italy, and the delegation is open to discussing its concession with the British.[[4]](#footnote-4)  
The Kingdom is proud of its empire in Africa, especially noteworthy considering the newness of the Italian nation. This delegation requests its fellow Allies for the consideration of this region as a complement to the Near Eastern question, as Allied presence in both areas is omnipresent. In this conference Italy looks forward to the discussion of Italian expansion of its empire in this area as well. [[5]](#footnote-5)

**IV. War Reparations**

The Great War has left all Allied nations in a state of economic devastation. While it recognizes the need for justice, having nations who caused the war to pay the appropriate debts, the Kingdom of Italy emphasizes on the need not simply for a morally just reparations plan, but an economically feasible one. The right reparations plan acknowledges the interrelation of reparations and inter-Allied war debt[[6]](#footnote-6). Italy thus proposed to reduce total German reparations from the previously established London schedule, from 132 billion gold marks to 50. Though this might be seen as being too lenient, this plan is a practical one, for it assures that each nation involved is able to pay their owed debt. [[7]](#footnote-7)

As aforementioned, keeping in mind past treaties is necessary as the conference proceeds. The recognition of Turkey is tantamount for continuing friendly relations between all parties. The Kingdom of Italy would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining equality among nations involved in the negotiations, and of taking advantage of the multilateral forum to discuss, in-depth, all issues on the table.

Works Cited

1. Casola, Maria Antonia Di , “Italy and the Treaty of Lausanne” in *The Turkish Yearbook* Vol XXIII, 1993. 65-78.
2. Burgwyn, James H. Italian Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1940. Westport, CT, USA: Greenwood Press, 1997. ProQuest ebrary. Web. 17 October 2015
3. Cassels, Alan, *Mussolini’s Early Diplomacy*, (Princeton University Press: 2015)
4. *Documenti Diplomatici Italiani: Setima Series 1922-1935 Vol II*

1. telegraph from foreign minister to Mussolini stated that the French were the most in line with their position, and that Italy should be willing to make concessions to France in order to gain their support in the final drafting of the Treaty. For more information see. .“Il Delegato Alla Conferenza Di Losanna, Montagna, Al Presidente Del Consiglio E Ministro Degli Esteri, Mussolini: T. 3569/322/247 in *Documenti Diplomatici Italiani: Setima Series 1922-1935 Vol II* 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ibid, 71. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Il Delegato Alla Conferenza Di Losanna, Montagna, Al Presidente Del Consiglio E Ministro Degli Esteri, Mussolini” in *Documenti Diplomatici Italiani: Setima Series 1922-1935 Vol II, May 5, 1923,* 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. James H. Burgwyn. Italian Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period, 1918-1940. Westport, CT, USA: Greenwood Press, 1997. ProQuest ebrary. Web. 17 October 2015, 23. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Alan Cassels, *Mussolini’s Early Diplomacy*, (Princeton University Press: 2015), 48. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Ibid., 49. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)