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REPLICA OF OLDEST KNOWN PEACE TREATY TO BE GIVEN TO UNITED NATIONS BY TURKEY

A replica of a treaty dating from 1269 B.C. -- the earliest peace treaty whose text is known to have survived -- will be presented to the Secretary-General at 10:15 a.m. tomorrow, 24 September, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil.

The replica — a gift from the Government and people of Turkey to the United Nations — will be presented at a brief ceremony in the delegates' corridor on the second floor of the Conference building, facing the north entrance to the Security Council Chamber. It is to be affixed to the wall for permanent display there.

The original treaty was signed by Hattusillis III, King of the Hittites, and Rameses II, King of the Egyptians. The clay tablet, which records the text in cuneiform script, was found in 1906 in central Anatolia on the site of the old Hittite capital, Hattusas (the present Bogazkoy).

The treaty pledges eternal friendship, lasting peace, territorial integrity, non-aggression, extradition and mutual help.

An Egyptian copy of the treaty has been found, inscribed in hieroglyphics on the wall of the Karnak temple in Egypt, but it is the version in Akkadian, the official diplomatic language of the day, which was found in Anatolia.

The replica of the clay tablet was made by Sadi Calik, a sculptor and lecturer at the Istanbul College of Fine Arts. It is a copper bas-relief, 9 feet high, 6 feet 9 3/4 inches wide and approximately 1 foot thick.

The original treaty is kept at the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul. The English translation of the treaty follows.

(more)

* This revision contains the text of an English translation of the treaty.

TREATY BETWEEN HATTUSILIS AND RAMSES II

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Title

Treaty of Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, the valiant, with Hattusilis, the great king of the Hatti land for establishing peace and good brotherhood worthy of great kings.

Preamble

These are the words of Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king of the land of Egypt, the valiant of all lands, the son of Min-mua-rea, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, the valiant, the grandson of Min-pakhta-rea, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, the valiant, spoken to Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, the valiant, the son of Mursilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, the valiant, the grandson of Suppiluliumas, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, the valiant.

Relations up to the Conclusion of the Treaty

Now I have established good brotherhood and good peace between us forever. In order to establish good peace and good brotherhood in the relations of the land of Egypt with the Hatti land forever I speak thus: Behold, as for the relationship between the land of Egypt and the Hatti land, since eternity the god does not permit the making of hostility between them because of a treaty valid forever. Behold, Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, in order to bring about the relationship that the Sun-god and the Storm-god have effected for the land of Egypt with the Hatti land finds himself in a relationship valid since eternity which does not permit the making of hostility between them for all and overlasting time.

The Present Treaty

Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, has entered into a treaty written upon a silver tablet with Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, his brother, from this day on to establish good peace and good brotherhood between us forever. He is a brother to me and I am a brother to him and at peace with him forever. And as for ^{us}, our brotherhood and our peace is being brought about and it will be better than the brotherhood and the peace which existed formerly for the land of Egypt with the Hatti land. (more)

Future Relations of the Countries

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Behold, Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of the land of Egypt, is in good peace and in good brotherhood with Hattusilis the great king, the king of the Hatti land.

Behold the sons Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of the land of Egypt, are in peace with the brothers of the sons of Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, forever. They are in the same relationship of brotherhood and peace as we.

And as for the relationship of the land of Egypt with the Hatti land, they are at peace and brothers like us forever.

Mutual Renunciation of Aggression

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Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, shall not trespass into the Hatti land to take anything therefrom in the future. And Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, shall not trespass into the land of Egypt, to take anything therefrom in the future.

Behold, the holy ordinance valid forever which the Sun-god and the Stormgod had brought about for the land of Egypt with the Hatti land calls for peace and brotherhood so as not to make hostility between them. Behold, Reamashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, has seized hold of it in order to bring about well-being from this day on. Behold, the land of Egypt in its relations with the Hatti land -- they are at peace and brothers forever.

Defensive Alliance

If an enemy from abroad comes against the Hatti land, and Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, send to me saying: "Come to me to help me against him," Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, shall send his foot soldiers and his charioteers and they shall slay his enemy and take revenge upon him for the sake of the Hatti land.

And if Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, is angry with servants belonging to him and if they have failed against him and sends to Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, on their account -- Lo' Rea-mashesma mai Amana shall send his soldiers and his charioteers and they shall destroy all those with whom he is angry.

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If an enemy from abroad comes against the land of Egypt and Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of the land of Egypt, your brother, sends to Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land, his brother, saying "Come here to help me against him" -- Lo'Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land, shall send his foot soldiers and his charioteers and shall slay my enemies.

And if Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of the land of Egypt, is angry with servants belonging to him and if they have committed sin against him and I send to Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land, my brother, on his account --Lo'Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land, my brother, shall send his foot soldiers and his charioteers and they shall destroy all those with whom he is angry.

Succession to the Throne

Behold, the son of Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land shall be made king of the Hatti land in place of Hattusilis, his father, after the many years of Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land. If the noblemen of the Hatti land commit sin against him -- Lo' Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of Egypt, shall send foot soldiers and charioteers to take revenge upon them for the sake of the Hatti land. And after they have re-established order in the country of the king of the Hatti land, they shall return to the country of Egypt.

(Corresponding provision concerning Egypt lost in a gap.)

Extradition of Fugitives

If a nobleman flees from the Hatti land and if one such man comes to Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, in order to enter his services, Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, shall seize them and shall have them brought back to the king of the Hatti land.

If a nobleman flees from Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the king of the land of Egypt, and if one such man comes to the Hatti land, Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, shall seize him and shall have him brought back to Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of Egypt, his brother.

(more)

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If one man flees from the Hatti land or two men, or three men and come to Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, shall seize them and have them brought back to Hattusilis, his brother, Rea-mashesma mai Amana and Hattusilis are verily brothers; hence let them not exact punishment for their sins, let them not tear out their eyes; let them not take revenge upon their people together with their wives and with their children.

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If one man flees from Egypt or two men or three men and come to Hattusilis, the great king, the king of the Hatti land, Hattusilis the great king, the king of the Hatti land, his brother, shall seize them and have them brought back to Rea-mashesma mai Amana, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt. Hattusilis, the king of the Hatti land, and Rea-mashesma, the great king, the king of the land of Egypt, are verily brothers; hence let them not exact punishment for their sins, let them not tear out their eyes; let them not take revenge upon their people, together with their wives and with their children.

(After some fragmentary lines, the text breaks off altogether here. The end of the treaty, with the list of the gods who are invoked as witnesses, is missing.)

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