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U.S. Naval War College (Editor)

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Only the Congress has the power to interpret the Constitution in a generally binding manner, and to resolve doubts which arise concerning the meaning of one or more of its terms.

Likewise only the Congress has the function of declaring whether a law or legislative decree is or is not unconstitutional.

6. Constitution of the French Republic, 27 October 1946

(*Journal Officiel*, 28 October 1946.)

[Translation]

PREAMBLE. . . . Every man persecuted by reason of his action in behalf of liberty has the right to asylum in the territories of the Republic. . . .

The French Republic, faithful to its traditions, conforms to the rules of public international law. It will undertake no war with a view to conquest and will never use its forces against the liberty of any people.

On condition of reciprocity, France consents to limitations of sovereignty which are necessary for the organization and defence of peace. . . .

ARTICLE 26. Diplomatic treaties regularly ratified and published have the force of law even should they be contrary to internal French laws, and to ensure their application there is no need of other legislative dispositions than those which would have been necessary to ensure their ratification.

ARTICLE 27. Treaties relating to international organization, treaties of peace, treaties which engage the finances of the State, those which are relative to the status of persons and to the property rights of French citizens abroad, those which modify French internal laws, and also those which bring about a cession, exchange or addition of territory, are not definitive until after they have been ratified by virtue of a law.

No cession, exchange, or addition of territory is valid without the consent of the populations concerned.

ARTICLE 28. As diplomatic treaties regularly ratified and published have an authority superior to that of internal laws, their dispositions cannot be abrogated, modified, or suspended otherwise than after a regular denunciation of which notice has been given through diplomatic channels. When treaties covered by Article 27 are concerned, the denunciation must be authorized by the National Assembly, except in the case of treaties of commerce.

ARTICLE 31. The President is kept informed of international negotiations. He signs and ratifies treaties.

The President of the Republic accredits ambassadors and envoys extraordinary to foreign powers; foreign ambassadors and envoys are accredited to him.

7. German Constitutions

A. BASIC LAW FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 20 MAY 1949

(United States Department of State Publication 3526.)

[Translation]

ARTICLE 16. (1) No one may be deprived of his German citizenship. The loss of citizenship may occur only on the basis of a law and, against the will of the person concerned, only if the person concerned is not rendered stateless thereby.

(2) No German may be extradited to a foreign country. The politically persecuted shall enjoy the right of asylum.

ARTICLE 24. (1) The Federation may, by legislation, transfer sovereign powers to international institutions.

(2) In order to preserve peace, the Federation may join a system of mutual collective security; in doing so it will consent to those limitations of its sovereign powers which will bring about and secure a peaceful and lasting order in Europe and among the nations of the world.

(3) For the settlement of international disputes, the Federation will join a general, comprehensive, obligatory system of international arbitration.

ARTICLE 25. The general rules of international law shall form part of federal law. They shall take precedence over the laws and create rights and duties directly for the inhabitants of the federal territory.

ARTICLE 26. (1) Activities tending to disturb or undertaken with the intention of disturbing the peaceful relations between nations, and especially preparing for aggressive war, shall be unconstitutional. They shall be made subject to punishment.

(2) Weapons designed for warfare may be manufactured, transported or marketed only with the permission of the Federal Government. Details shall be regulated by a federal law.

ARTICLE 32. (1) The maintenance of relations with foreign states shall be the affair of the Federation.

(2) Before the conclusion of a treaty affecting the special