



Treaty Series No. 9 (1956)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of Belgium

extending the Provisions of the Visa  
Abolition Agreement of February 5, 1947,  
to certain Areas provisionally under  
Belgian Administration

London, December 20, 1955

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament  
by Command of Her Majesty  
March 1956*

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 5, 1947, TO CERTAIN AREAS PROVISIONALLY UNDER BELGIAN ADMINISTRATION**

*London, December 20, 1955*

No. 1

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Belgian  
Ambassador at London*

*Foreign Office,*

Your Excellency,

*December 20, 1955.*

With reference to the discussions which have recently taken place between your Excellency and myself I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are prepared to extend to the inhabitants of certain areas on the Western frontier of Germany, which were provisionally placed under Belgian administration on the 23rd of April, 1949, facilities similar to those accorded to Belgian subjects under the provisions of paragraph (1) of the Agreement between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Belgium, embodied in the Notes exchanged in London on the 5th of February, 1947,<sup>(1)</sup> concerning the abolition of visas for Belgian subjects travelling to the United Kingdom and British subjects travelling to Belgium.

Accordingly it is proposed that persons who are inhabitants of the aforesaid areas and who are identified as such by an appropriate endorsement in the inside cover of their travel documents shall be free to travel to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man without first obtaining a visa on the condition that the waiver of the visa requirement shall not exempt the inhabitants of the areas in question from the necessity of complying with the provisions of paragraph (3) of the Agreement mentioned above which are applicable to Belgian subjects.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Belgian Government I have the honour to suggest that the present Note and your Excellency's reply in that sense should be regarded as placing on record the Agreement reached between the two Governments in this matter which shall enter into force on the 20th of December, 1955, and shall remain in force until one month after either Government shall have given written notice to the other of their intention to terminate it.

I have, &c.

(For the Secretary of State)

C. H. JOHNSTON.

(1) "Treaty Series No. 4 (1947)," Cmd. 7038.

*The Belgian Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at London to the Secretary  
of State for Foreign Affairs*

*Ambassade de Belgique,*

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat, *Londres, le 20 décembre 1955.*

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre de ce jour par laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire savoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord est disposé à étendre aux habitants des territoires situés à la frontière occidentale de l'Allemagne et qui ont été placés provisoirement sous l'administration de la Belgique depuis le 23 avril 1949, les facilités octroyées aux ressortissants belges en vertu des dispositions du paragraphe 1 de l'Accord conclu entre le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Royaume-Uni et le Gouvernement belge, qui a fait l'objet des notes échangées à Londres le 5 février 1947 concernant la suppression des visas en faveur des ressortissants belges se rendant au Royaume-Uni et des sujets britanniques se rendant en Belgique.

En conséquence, votre Excellence propose que les habitants de ces territoires qui sont identifiés comme tels par une mention appropriée au verso de la couverture de leurs titres de voyage, soient autorisés à se rendre au Royaume-Uni, aux Iles Anglo-normandes et à l'Île de Man, sans être astreints à l'obtention préalable d'un visa, étant entendu que l'exemption du visa ne dispense pas les habitants des territoires en question de l'obligation de se conformer aux dispositions du paragraphe 3 du susdit Accord et qui sont applicables aux ressortissants belges.

J'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le Gouvernement belge accepte les dispositions qui précèdent et qu'il se rallie à la suggestion de votre Excellence de considérer sa lettre du 20 décembre 1955 et la présente réponse comme constituant l'Accord conclu à ce sujet entre les deux Gouvernements. Le dit Accord entrera en vigueur le 20 décembre 1955 et le restera jusqu'à l'expiration d'un mois à compter de la date à laquelle l'un des deux Gouvernements aura donné à l'autre un préavis écrit pour l'informer de son intention d'y mettre fin.

Je saisis, etc.

ET. CHAMPENOIS.

(Translation of No. 2)

*Belgian Embassy,*

Mr. Secretary of State, *London, December 20, 1955.*

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of the above date in which your Excellency was good enough to inform me that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are prepared to extend to the inhabitants of areas on the Western frontier of Germany which have been provisionally placed under Belgian administration since the 23rd of April, 1949, the facilities accorded to Belgian subjects under the provisions of paragraph 1 of the Agreement between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Belgium embodied in the Notes exchanged in London on the 5th of February, 1947, concerning the abolition of visas for Belgian subjects travelling to the United Kingdom and British subjects travelling to Belgium.

Accordingly, your Excellency proposes that the inhabitants of these territories who are identified as such by an appropriate endorsement on the inside of their travel documents shall be free to travel to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man without first obtaining a visa, on the

condition that the waiver of the visa requirement shall not exempt the inhabitants of the areas in question from the necessity of complying with the provisions of paragraph 3 of the Agreement mentioned above, which are applicable to Belgian subjects.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Belgian Government accepts the foregoing proposals and agrees to your Excellency's suggestion that your Note of the 20th of December, 1955, and the present reply shall constitute the Agreement reached on this subject between the two Governments. The said Agreement shall enter into force on the 20th of December, 1955, and shall remain in force until one month after either Government shall have given written notice to the other of their intention to terminate it.

I take, &c.

ET. CHAMPENOIS.

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