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Agreement

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia

on the Establishment and Activities of Cultural Centres

Ljubljana, 18 December 2000

[The Agreement entered into force on 15 March 2002]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
October 2003*

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF CULTURAL CENTRES

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”);

Recognising the mutual interest of the peoples of each country in becoming better acquainted with the human values and culture of the other;

In accordance with the agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on Co-operation in the Fields of Education, Culture and Science of 22 April 1993¹ (hereinafter referred to as the Cultural Agreement);

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

- (1) Each Party may establish on the territory of the other Party cultural and information centres (hereinafter referred to as “Cultural Centres”).
- (2) Cultural Centres may be established in the capital of both countries and, with the agreement of the receiving party, in other locations within that country.

ARTICLE 2

- (1) The Cultural Centres shall assist in implementing the Cultural Agreement as well as other relevant programmes of co-operation.
- (2) The activities of the Cultural Centres shall have the objective of fostering the development of relations between the two countries through the exchange and dissemination directly to the public of information and knowledge, particularly in the fields of language and literature, culture and the arts, education, science and technology, the media and communications.

ARTICLE 3

- (1) The work of the British Cultural Centres in the Republic of Slovenia shall be conducted by the British Council as the designated agent of Her Majesty’s Government for cultural activity in the Republic of Slovenia. The work of the Slovenian Cultural Centres in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be conducted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.
- (2) The British Cultural centres shall be designated “The British Council” and the Slovenian Cultural Centres shall be designated “Slovenian Cultural Centre”. These titles may be used on notice-boards, in correspondence, and on information and publicity material.

¹ Treaty Series No. 14 (1996) Cm 3059.

(3) Each Party shall, subject to the laws and regulations in force in its territory, take all appropriate measures to ensure the normal functioning of the Cultural Centres of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 4

(1) The Contracting Parties shall guarantee free and unhindered public access to the Cultural Centres' premises and to their activities where these are carried out elsewhere. They shall ensure that the Cultural Centres are able to publicise their activities by all available means.

(2) The Centres may enter into and maintain direct contacts with the relevant ministries and other public bodies, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, professional associations, and private organisations, individuals and groups.

ARTICLE 5

(1) The activities of the Cultural Centres, on their own premises and elsewhere, may include:

- (a) disseminating information as provided for under Article 2 of this Agreement;
- (b) organising visits and events in the fields of culture, education and training, and science and technology;
- (c) organising conferences, colloquia, and other meetings;
- (d) staging artistic performances, concerts and exhibitions;
- (e) showing films and audio-visual material;
- (f) receiving people involved in education and training, culture, science and technology to participate in activities organised by the Cultural Centres;
- (g) providing libraries, reading rooms and multi-media resource centres; and loaning books, newspapers, journals, audio-visual and other materials of a cultural, educational, scientific or technological nature;
- (h) publishing and distributing information bulletins, catalogues, and other materials of a cultural, educational, scientific or technological nature;
- (i) organising courses, examinations and seminars; providing professional expertise and teaching materials to institutions and individuals, and co-operating to produce materials relating to teaching and teaching methods;
- (j) managing and participating in the implementation of bilateral and multilateral projects in accordance with the aims of this Agreement;
- (k) arranging meetings and other activities for children and young people;

(2) In accordance with the aims of this Agreement the Cultural Centres may also organise or participate in other events and activities.

ARTICLE 6

- (1) The Cultural Centres shall undertake their activities in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving state.
- (2) The Cultural Centres may enjoy legal personality and capacity under the laws and regulations of the receiving state.

ARTICLE 7

The Cultural Centres may organise events and activities outside their own premises.

ARTICLE 8

- (1) The Cultural Centres shall be non-profit-making organisations. Notwithstanding this, the Centres may charge for all or any of the activities listed in Article 5 of this Agreement in order to cover some or all of the costs of their upkeep and operations. For example, the Cultural Centres may:
 - (a) charge visitors to their events, activities or exhibitions;
 - (b) charge for courses, examinations, or other related services;
 - (c) charge for the use of libraries and the loan or sale of multi-media or other materials relevant to their activities;
 - (d) sell catalogues, posters, programmes, books, records and teaching aids directly linked to the events and activities they organise;
 - (e) run cafeterias for visitors to the Centres.
- (2) Exhibits from exhibitions organised by the Cultural Centres on their premises or at any other location may be offered for sale subject to the payment of any taxes or customs duties as may be payable under the laws and regulations of the receiving state.

ARTICLE 9

Each Party shall assist the other in finding suitable premises or sites for the Cultural Centres.

ARTICLE 10

- (1) Each Party shall, subject to the laws and regulations in force in its territory, afford the other party every facility for the importation of material required to set up and equip the Cultural Centres, and to carry out their activities under the provisions of this Agreement.
- (2) Subject to the laws and regulations in force in the receiving state, the Parties will seek to exempt the Cultural Centres from the payment of customs duties, import duties and all other taxes imposed on the import or export of items to satisfy the temporary or permanent needs of the Centres and not intended for sale in the receiving state.

ARTICLE 11

- (1) Each Party shall appoint the staff of its own Cultural Centres. In the case of staff who are nationals of or permanently resident in the receiving country, employment shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the receiving state.
- (2) The Director of the Cultural Centre in the capital of the receiving state, if he/she is a national of the sending state, shall be a member of the diplomatic mission of the sending state.
- (3) Each Party shall inform the other when expatriate staff have been assigned to a Cultural Centre and shall also inform the other whenever such staff take up post or terminate their duties.

ARTICLE 12

Members of the staff of the Cultural Centres who are neither nationals of nor permanently resident in the receiving state, and members of their families living with them who are recognised as dependants by the relevant authorities of the receiving state and who are neither nationals of nor permanently resident in the receiving state, shall not be subject to the employment legislation or participate in the social security arrangements of the receiving state.

ARTICLE 13

- (1) Each Party shall facilitate prompt consideration of applications for entry clearance, and applications for work permits and residence permits where required, for members of staff of the Cultural Centres of the other Party and dependant members of their families living with them.
- (2) The parties shall facilitate prompt consideration of applications for entry clearance for participants in programmes or events provided for in Article 5 of this Agreement.
- (3) Members of the staff of the Centres who do not enjoy diplomatic status and who are neither nationals of nor permanently resident in the receiving state, and members of their families living with them who are recognised as dependants by the relevant authorities of the receiving state and who are neither nationals of nor permanently resident in the receiving state, are eligible to exemption from import duties and taxes in respect of the importation within the first twelve months of arrival of household items and their personal effects, including one vehicle for their personal needs.

ARTICLE 14

Questions concerning the implementation, interpretation and application of this Agreement shall, where necessary, be resolved through the diplomatic channel except where otherwise provided for in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 15

- (1) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the latter of the notifications by which the Contracting Parties notify each other through the diplomatic channel that all internal legal procedures have been fulfilled.
- (2) This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and thereafter shall remain in force until the expiry of twelve months from the date on which either Party shall have given written notice to the other through the diplomatic channel.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Ljubljana this 18th day of December 2000 in the English and Slovenian languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland.

DAVID LLOYD

For the Government of the Republic of
Slovenia:

TANJA ORÉL-STURM



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