



Treaty Series No. 84 (1953)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the French Republic
regarding the transit of British and French
merchant seamen through France and
the United Kingdom respectively

Paris, October 8/14, 1953

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
December 1953*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC REGARDING THE TRANSIT OF BRITISH AND FRENCH MERCHANT SEAMEN THROUGH FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM RESPECTIVELY

Paris, October 8/14, 1953

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to the French Minister
for Foreign Affairs*

British Embassy,

M. le Président,

Paris, October 8, 1953.

I have the honour to refer to the discussions which have taken place between representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Government of the French Republic about the transit of merchant seamen through their respective territories. As the result of said discussions agreement was reached in the following terms:—

- (1) British subjects holding a seaman's record book (seaman's record book and certificates of discharge) who have received either embarkation orders instructing them to join a ship in a foreign port, or disembarkation orders instructing them to return to the United Kingdom after disembarking in a foreign port, shall be authorised to enter Metropolitan France, or to cross Metropolitan France in transit, on their seaman's record books in lieu of passports and without a French visa.
- (2) French citizens, holding a seaman's record book (livret professionnel maritime) who have received either embarkation orders instructing them to join a ship in a foreign port, or disembarkation orders instructing them to return to France after disembarking in a foreign port, shall be authorised to enter the United Kingdom, or to cross the United Kingdom in transit, on their seaman's record books in lieu of passports and without a British visa.
- (3) The stay in France of British merchant seamen, or in the United Kingdom of French merchant seamen, travelling under embarkation or disembarkation orders with a seaman's record book shall be limited to fifteen days.
- (4) During such stay British merchant seamen in France and French merchant seamen in the United Kingdom shall be subject to all the regulations in force concerning aliens.
- (5) Each Government reserves the right to refuse permission to land in its territory to any holder of a seaman's record book whom they consider undesirable.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the foregoing arrangements are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom and, if they are also acceptable to the French Government, to suggest that the present Note and your Excellency's reply in that sense should be regarded as constituting an agreement between the two Governments in the matter which shall enter into force on the 15th November, 1953, and shall remain in force indefinitely unless it shall have been terminated by Notes to be exchanged for that purpose.

I have, &c.

OLIVER HARVEY.

1087

*The French Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's
Ambassador at Paris*

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères,

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 14 octobre 1953.

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre en date du 8 octobre 1953, relative à la circulation des marins français et britanniques sous le couvert de leur livret professionnel, et de vous confirmer que le Gouvernement Français mettra de son côté en vigueur, à dater du 15 novembre 1953 et sous condition de stricte réciprocité, les dispositions suivantes :

- (1) Les citoyens britanniques, porteurs du livret de marin (seaman's record book) et ayant reçu un ordre d'embarquement ou de débarquement leur enjoignant, soit de rejoindre leur navire dans un port étranger, soit de rentrer au Royaume-Uni à la suite d'un débarquement dans un port étranger, sont autorisés à entrer en France métropolitaine ou à transiter par la France métropolitaine, sous le couvert de leur livret de marin tenant lieu de passeport, sans visa français.
- (2) Les citoyens français, porteurs du livret de marin (livret professionnel maritime) et ayant reçu un ordre d'embarquement ou de débarquement leur enjoignant, soit de rejoindre leur navire dans un port étranger, soit de rentrer en France à la suite d'un débarquement dans un port étranger, sont autorisés à entrer dans le Royaume-Uni ou à transiter par le Royaume-Uni, sous le couvert de leur livret de marin tenant lieu de passeport, sans visa britannique.
- (3) Le séjour en France ou dans le Royaume-Uni des marins français ou britanniques voyageant sous le couvert de leur livret de marin et d'un ordre d'embarquement ou de débarquement est limité à quinze jours.
- (4) Pendant la durée de leur séjour sur le territoire de l'un ou de l'autre pays, les marins français et britanniques sont soumis à toutes les prescriptions administratives concernant les étrangers.
- (5) Chacun des deux Gouvernements se réserve le droit de refuser l'accès de son territoire à tout porteur d'un livret de marin qu'il jugerait indésirable.

Le présent accord restera en vigueur sans limitation de durée, à moins qu'il n'y soit mis fin par un échange de notes des deux Gouvernements.

Veuillez agréer, &c.

Pour le Ministre, &c.

J. SERRES.

(Translation)

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, October 14, 1953.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of the 8th of October, 1953, regarding the transit of French and British seamen on

their seaman's record books and to confirm that the French Government on their part will put the following provisions into force as from the 15th of November, 1953, under strict conditions of reciprocity.

[As in sub-paragraphs (1)-(5) of paragraph 1 of No. 1.]

The present Agreement will remain in force indefinitely, unless it is terminated by an Exchange of Notes between the two Governments.

I avail, &c.

For the Minister, &c.

J. SERRES.

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