



Treaty Series No. 54 (1961)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the Kingdom of Greece
concerning the acceptance of the British
Visitor's Passport for travel between the
United Kingdom and Greece

Athens. April 6. 1961

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
July 1961*

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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 KINGDOM OF GREECE CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRITISH VISITOR'S PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GREECE

No. 1

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Athens to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs

*British Embassy,
Athens, April 6, 1961.*

Your Excellency,

You will be aware that in connexion with the question of the simplification of frontier formalities the Council of Europe and the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation have recommended that Member countries of the Organisation should admit each other's nationals to their territory for visits of not more than three months on presentation of identity cards based on the standard form recognised by the Tourism Committee of the Organisation.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that as identity cards are not issued to residents of the United Kingdom, a simplified form of passport known as the British Visitor's Passport is available for issue to British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A British Visitor's Passport is valid for one year from the date of issue. An applicant for a British Visitor's Passport is not required by the United Kingdom authorities to produce documentary evidence of his identity and national status, but he is required to sign a declaration that he is a British subject, citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A specimen of the British Visitor's Passport is attached as an Annex to this Note⁽¹⁾.

I have now the honour to propose, on the instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Government of the United Kingdom and the Royal Hellenic Government conclude an Agreement in the following terms:

- (a) The Royal Hellenic Government undertake to accept the British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport and to permit holders to enter and stay in Greece without the necessity of obtaining a visa and subject to the following conditions:
- (i) A visit to Greece shall not exceed three months and shall not be for employment.
 - (ii) A visitor who enters Greece on presentation of a British Visitor's Passport and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than three months shall be required to obtain a passport bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport," before the expiry of the three months' period.

⁽¹⁾ Not reproduced.

- (iii) Holders of British Visitor's Passports proceeding to Greece shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of Greece relating to the entry and residence of foreigners. Travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations may be refused leave to enter or to land.
 - (iv) The right is reserved to the competent authorities of Greece to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in Greece in any case where that person is regarded as undesirable by those authorities or is otherwise ineligible under the general policy of the Royal Hellenic Government relating to the entry or stay of foreigners.
 - (v) The Royal Hellenic Government may suspend the foregoing provisions in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public policy and/or national security, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the Government of the United Kingdom through the diplomatic channel.
- (b) The Government of the United Kingdom undertake to take back into their territory at any time holders of British Visitor's Passports who have entered Greece.

If the above proposals are acceptable to the Royal Hellenic Government, I have the honour to suggest that the present Note, together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense, should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the 1st of May, 1961, and remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' written notice of termination to the other.

I avail, &c.

ROGER ALLEN.

No. 2

The Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Athens

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur.

Athens, April 6, 1961.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today's date reading as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Royal Hellenic Government agree that the exchange of the two Notes, that under reference and the present one, should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two countries which shall enter in force on the 1st of May, 1961, and remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' written notice of termination to the other.

I avail, &c.

EVANGHELOS AVEROFF-TOSSIZZA.

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