



Treaty Series No. 77 (1961)

Exchange of Notes

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

concerning the acceptance of the
British Visitor's Passport for travel between
the United Kingdom and Finland

Helsinki, June 9, 1961

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

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

FOURPENCE NET

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRITISH VISITOR'S PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FINLAND

No. 1

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Helsinki to the Finnish Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

British Embassy,

Your Excellency,

Helsinki, June 9, 1961.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that 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 application 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⁾

2. I now have 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 Government of Finland conclude an Agreement in the following terms:—

- (a) The Government of Finland undertake to accept the British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport and to permit holders to enter and stay in Finland without the necessity of obtaining a visa subject to the following conditions:
- (i) A visit to Finland shall not exceed three months and shall not be for employment. This period of three months shall be calculated from the date of entry into any Nordic State being a party to the Convention of the 12th of July 1957 concerning the waiver of passport control at the inter-Nordic frontiers, (that is to say at present Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden). Any sojourn in any of these States during the six months preceding the entry into Finland shall be included in the above period of three months.
 - (ii) A visitor who enters Finland 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.
 - (iii) Holders of British Visitor's Passports proceeding to Finland shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with the laws and

(1) Not reproduced.

regulations of Finland 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 Finland to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in Finland in any case where that person is regarded as undesirable by those authorities or is otherwise ineligible under the general policy of the Government of Finland relating to the entry or stay of foreigners.
 - (v) The Government of Finland 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 Finland.

3. If the above proposals are acceptable to the Government of Finland, 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 first of July 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 have, &c.

C. O'NEILL.

No. 2

The Finnish Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Helsinki

Your Excellency,

Helsinki, June 9, 1961.

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

[As in No. 1]

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Finland consider that Your Excellency's Note with its Annex and the present reply constitute an agreement between the two Governments.

I avail, &c.

V. J. SUKSELAINEN.

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