



Treaty Series No. 5 (1997)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Czech Republic regarding the Interpretation of the Consular Convention between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Done at Prague on 3 April 1975, for the purposes of Paragraph 3, Article 31 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, concerning

Honorary Consuls and Honorary Consular Posts of the Czech Republic in the United Kingdom

London, 4 July 1996 and 5 November 1996

[The Agreement entered into force on 5 November 1996]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
January 1997*

EXCHANGE OF NOTES
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC REGARDING THE INTERPRETATION OF
THE CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC,
DONE AT PRAGUE ON 3 APRIL 1975, FOR THE PURPOSES OF
PARAGRAPH 3, ARTICLE 31 OF THE 1969 VIENNA CONVENTION¹ ON
THE LAW OF TREATIES, CONCERNING HONORARY CONSULS AND
HONORARY CONSULAR POSTS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM

No.1

The Embassy of the Czech Republic to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London
4 July 1996

No. 4979/96

The Embassy of the Czech Republic present their compliments to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and have the honour to refer to recent discussions between representatives of the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Consular Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, which was signed in Prague on 3 April 1975 (“the 1975 Convention”).²

As a result of these discussions the Embassy of the Czech Republic have the honour to propose the following interpretation of the 1975 Convention:

The 1975 Convention shall regulate the status, legal regime, appointment and functions of Career Consular Officers and Consular Posts headed by Career Consular Officers.

Since the 1975 Convention does not apply to Honorary Consular Officers and Consular Posts headed by such Officers, all such matters concerning such officers and posts shall be governed by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which was opened for signature in Vienna on 24 April 1963.³

If the above interpretation is acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Embassy of the Czech Republic have the honour to suggest that this note and the reply of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to that effect shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments regarding the interpretation of the 1975 Convention for the purposes of par. 3, Art. 31 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which shall enter into force on the date of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s reply.

The Embassy of the Czech Republic have the honour to use this opportunity to express to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the assurance of their highest consideration.

¹Treaty Series No. 58 (1980) Cmnd. 7964.

²Treaty Series No. 107 (1976) Cmnd. 6683.

³Treaty Series No. 14 (1973) Cmnd. 5219.

No. 2

*The Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Embassy of the
Czech Republic at London*

*London,
5 November 1996*

TXK 400/669/1
Note No. A2391/96

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office present their compliments to the Embassy of the Czech Republic and have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Embassy's Note No. 4979/96 of 4 July 1996 which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have the honour to inform the Embassy that the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who therefore agree that the Embassy's Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two governments in this matter for the purposes of Paragraph 3, Article 31, of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which shall enter into force on today's date.

The Foreign and Commonwealth office have the honour to convey to the Embassy of the Czech Republic the assurance of their highest consideration.

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