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EXCHANGE OF NOTES

BETWEEN

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE

RESPECTING THE

WAIVER OF CONSULAR FEES ON THE
ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

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No. 1.

Sir E. Monson to M. Delcassé.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, October 2, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I communicated to Her Majesty's Government a copy of M. Waldeck-Rousseau's note of the 2nd August last, stating the bases on which the Government of the French Republic are ready to come to an Agreement with Her Majesty's Government with regard to reciprocity for the waiver of certain Consular fees charged for attesting certificates of origin.

I have now received instructions from the Marquess of Salisbury to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government agree to the proposed arrangement, and having been authorized to proceed to an exchange of notes with your Excellency, I beg that you will be so good as to communicate to me the draft of a note embodying the terms suggested in M. Waldeck-Rousseau's note above referred to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 2.

M. Delcassé to Sir E. Monson.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, le 13 Octobre, 1899.

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu me faire connaître par une lettre du 2^e de ce mois que le Gouvernement Britannique était disposé à conclure avec le Gouvernement de la République un arrangement concernant la gratuité de la délivrance ou du visa des certificats d'origine par les autorités Consulaires des deux pays,

[1029]

sur les bases indiquées dans la dépêche de mon Département du 2 Août dernier.

En réponse à cette communication et pour donner suite à ce projet d'entente, j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le Gouvernement de la République a décidé qu'à l'avenir—

1. Les Consuls Français dans le Royaume-Uni délivreront gratuitement les certificats d'origine qui lui seront demandés.

2. Les certificats d'origine délivrés par les autorités locales autres que les Douanes, à savoir par les Maires, les Magistrats, les Chambres de Commerce, &c., seront soumis, comme par le passé, à l'obligation du visa Consulaire, mais ce visa ne donnera lieu dorénavant à la perception d'aucune taxe.

3. Les certificats d'origine émanant des Douanes Anglaises lorsqu'ils seront munis du cachet de ces Douanes et qu'aucun doute ne s'élèvera sur leur authenticité, continueront à être admis par les Douanes Françaises sans visa ou légalisation Consulaire.

Je serais reconnaissant à votre Excellence de vouloir bien, de son côté, me donner au nom de son Gouvernement l'assurance que par réciprocité—

1. Les autorités Consulaires Britanniques en France délivreront gratuitement les certificats d'origine qui leur seront demandés.

2. Les certificats d'origine dressés par les autorités locales Françaises seront visés sans frais par les Agents Consulaires Britanniques en France.

3. Les certificats d'origine émanant des Douanes Françaises et munis de leurs cachets seront admis par les Douanes Anglaises sans visa Consulaire.

Les deux Gouvernements seront d'ailleurs libres de mettre fin à toute époque à l'accord ainsi intervenu entre eux.

Dès que votre Excellence aura bien voulu me faire connaître que son Gouvernement est entièrement d'accord sur ces différents points avec le Gouvernement de la République, je m'empresserai de donner les instructions nécessaires pour la mise en application des dispositions ainsi arrêtées en principe.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) DELCASSÉ.

No. 3.

M. Delcassé to Sir E. Monson.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Paris, October 13, 1899.

On the 2nd instant your Excellency was so good as to inform me that the British Government was prepared to conclude an arrangement with the Government of the Republic for the gratuitous issue or legalization of certificates of origin by the Consular authorities of the two countries on the basis explained in the note from this Department of the 2nd August last.

In reply to this communication, and with the object of giving effect to the proposed understanding, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Government of the French Republic has decided that in future—

1. French Consuls in the United Kingdom will issue, on application, certificates of origin without charging a fee.

2. Certificates of origin issued by local authorities, other than the Customs, viz., Mayors, Magistrates, Chambers of Commerce, &c., will require, as heretofore, a Consular *visa*. No fee, however, will henceforward be charged for such *visa*.

3. Certificates of origin issued by the British Customs authorities, when stamped with the seal of the Customs, and when there is no question as to their genuineness, will continue to be accepted by the French Customs without Consular *visa* or legalization.

I should be obliged if your Excellency would be so good as to give me an assurance on behalf of your Government that by way of reciprocity—

1. British Consular authorities in France will issue certificates of origin on application without charging a fee.

2. Certificates of origin drawn up by French local authorities will be legalized gratis by British Consular officers in France.

3. Certificates of origin issued by the French Customs authorities, and stamped with the French Customs seal, will be accepted by the British Customs without a Consular *visa*.

The two Governments will further be at liberty to terminate at any time the Agreement thus concluded between them.

As soon as your Excellency shall have been good enough to inform me that your Government is in entire agreement with the Government of the Republic on these various points, I shall lose no time in issuing the necessary instructions for giving effect to the provisions thus agreed upon in principle.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) DELCASSÉ.

No. 4.

Sir E. Monson to M. Delcassé.

M. le Ministre,

Paris, November 15, 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 13th ultimo, informing me of the Regulations which the Government of the Republic have laid down with regard to the gratuitous issue in future of certificates of origin by French Consuls resident in the United Kingdom.

While thanking your Excellency for this communication, I am authorized to inform you that Her Majesty's Government will, in return, issue forthwith the reciprocal directions to British Consuls resident in France, who will be instructed—

1. To deliver gratuitously upon application certificates of origin.

2. To legalize ("viser") without charge a certificate of origin drawn up by the local French authorities.

The British Customs authorities also will be instructed to recognize certificates of origin issued by the French Customs and bearing their seal.

It is understood that the two Governments are at liberty to terminate at any moment the agreement now come to between them.

I would suggest that the new Regulations should come into force in both countries on the 1st January, 1900.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.
