



Treaty Series No. 5 (1940)

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES

between the Government of the United Kingdom and  
the Government of Poland

regulating the

### Utilisation of Units of the Polish Mercantile Marine in the Prosecution of the War against Germany

London, October 12/November 25, 1939

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

LONDON

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF POLAND  
REGULATING THE UTILISATION OF UNITS OF THE POLISH  
MERCANTILE MARINE IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR  
AGAINST GERMANY.

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*London, October 12/November 25, 1939.*

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No. 1.

*Viscount Halifax to Count E. Raczyński.*

Your Excellency,

*London, October 12, 1939.*

I HAVE the honour to propose that the following arrangements should be accepted regulating in principle the co-operation between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Polish Government in respect of the utilisation of units of the Polish Mercantile Marine in the common effort for the successful prosecution of the war against Germany and the transport of essential commodities to and from Allied countries :—

(1) In furtherance of this object merchant ships of both countries and other Allied or neutral ships which may be at the disposal of the two Governments shall be employed on terms and conditions to be agreed upon between the two Governments.

(2) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree that Poland is entitled to have a representative on any inter-Allied sea transport organisation which may be appointed to deal with the appropriation of available merchant shipping to meet overlapping Allied requirements. The mode of operation of this inter-Allied sea transport organisation shall be subsequently determined by agreement between the Governments concerned.

(3) Passenger ships under the Polish flag will be allocated by the inter-Allied sea transport organisation for use as troop transports on terms and conditions to be agreed upon between the interested Governments.

(4) Polish fishing vessels are entitled to utilise British ports as bases.

(5) The competent authorities of the two Governments shall exchange information as to the reliability of the trading and transport agencies which are or may be employed.

(6) His Majesty's naval forces shall afford to units of the Polish Mercantile Marine carrying essential commodities to or from Allied countries the same convoy protection as is afforded to United Kingdom ships.

2. I have the honour to suggest that, if the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Polish Government, the present note and your Excellency's reply to that effect be regarded as placing on formal record the understanding between the two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.  
HALIFAX.

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No. 2.

*Count E. Raczyński to Viscount Halifax.*

*Polish Embassy,*

Your Excellency, *London, November 25, 1939.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the note of your Excellency of the 12th October, 1939, worded as follows:—

[As in No. 1.]

I have the honour to state that the proposals contained in the above-mentioned note are acceptable to the Polish Government and that they agree to your Excellency's note and the present reply being regarded as placing on formal record the understanding between the two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.  
E. RACZYŃSKI.

