



Treaty Series No. 3 (1942)

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom
and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic

concerning the

POLICY OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN REGARD TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

London, August 5, 1942

*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 HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHO-
SLOVAK REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE POLICY OF HIS MAJESTY'S
GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN REGARD TO CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA.

London, August 5, 1942.

No. 1.

Mr. Anthony Eden to M. Masaryk.

Your Excellency,

Foreign Office, London, August 5, 1942.

IN the light of recent exchanges of view between our Governments, I think it may be useful for me to make the following statement about the attitude of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom as regards Czechoslovakia.

In my letter of the 18th July, 1941, I informed your Excellency that The King had decided to accredit an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Dr. Benes as President of the Czechoslovak Republic. I explained that this decision implied that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom regarded the juridical position of the President and Government of the Czechoslovak Republic as identical with that of the other Allied heads of States and Governments established in this country. The status of His Majesty's representative has recently been raised to that of an Ambassador.

The Prime Minister had already stated in a message broadcast to the Czechoslovak people on the 30th September, 1940, the attitude of His Majesty's Government in regard to the arrangements reached at Munich in 1938. Mr. Churchill then said that the Munich Agreement had been destroyed by the Germans. This statement was formally communicated to Dr. Benes on the 11th November, 1940.

The foregoing statement and formal act of recognition have guided the policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to Czechoslovakia, but in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, I desire to declare on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that as Germany has deliberately destroyed the arrangements concerning Czechoslovakia reached in 1938, in which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom participated, His Majesty's Government regard themselves as free from any engagements in this respect. At the final settlement of the Czechoslovak frontiers to be reached at the end of the war they will not be influenced by any changes effected in and since 1938.

I have, &c.

ANTHONY EDEN.

No. 2.

M. Masaryk to Mr. Anthony Eden.

Your Excellency,

5th August, 1942.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 5th August, 1942, and I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to your Excellency, on behalf of the Czechoslovak Government and of myself, as well as in the name of the whole Czechoslovak people who are at present suffering so terribly under the Nazi yoke, the expression of our warmest thanks.

Your Excellency's note emphasises the fact that the formal act of recognition has guided the policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to Czechoslovakia, but, in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, His Majesty's Government now desire to declare that, as Germany has deliberately destroyed the arrangements concerning Czechoslovakia reached in 1938, in which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom participated, His Majesty's Government regard themselves as free from any engagements in this respect. At the final settlement of the Czechoslovak frontiers to be reached at the end of the war, they will not be influenced by any changes effected in and since 1938.

My Government accept your Excellency's note as a practical solution of the questions and difficulties of vital importance for Czechoslovakia which emerged between our two countries as the consequence of the Munich Agreement, maintaining, of course, our political and juridical position with regard to the Munich Agreement and the events which followed it as expressed in the note of the Czechoslovak Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the 16th December, 1941. We consider your important note of the 5th August, 1942, as a highly significant act of justice towards Czechoslovakia, and we assure you of our real satisfaction and of our profound gratitude to your great country and nation. Between our two countries the Munich Agreement can now be considered as dead.

I have, &c.

JAN MASARYK.

