



Treaty Series No. 2 (1948)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom
and the Government of Italy

for the Mutual Abolition of Visas

London, 6th December, 1947

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

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY FOR
THE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF VISAS

London, 6th December, 1947

No. 1

Mr. Ernest Bevin to Duke Tommaso Gallarati Scotti

*Foreign Office,
6th December, 1947.*

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to Italy and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of Italy an agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) Italian citizens shall be free to travel from any place whatever to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance provided that they are furnished with valid Italian passports.
- (2) Holders of valid passports bearing, on the cover, the inscription "British Passport" and, inside, the description of the holder's national status as "British subject" shall be free to travel from any place whatever to Italy without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.
- (3) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Italian citizens and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to Italy from the necessity of complying with the British and the Italian laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners, and that travellers who are unable to satisfy the immigration authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations are liable to be refused leave to enter or land.
- (4) As regards travel to British colonies and overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship, it is understood that visas will continue to be required.

2. If the Italian Government are prepared to accept the foregoing provisions, I have the honour to suggest that the present note and your Excellency's reply in similar terms should be regarded as placing on record the agreement between the two Governments, which shall take effect on the 1st January, 1948.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST BEVIN.

Duke Tommaso Gallarati Scotti to Mr. Ernest Bevin

Ambasciata d'Italia,

Signor Segretario di Stato,

Londra, li 6 dicembre 1947.

In risposta alla Nota del 6 dicembre 1947, ho l'onore di informare Vostra Eccellenza che, come primo passo verso l'auspicato ritorno alla libertà di viaggio per i territori britannici e per l'Italia, il Governo italiano è disposto a concludere con il Governo di Sua Maestà nel Regno Unito il seguente accordo:—

- (1) I cittadini italiani, muniti di passaporto valido italiano, avranno la facoltà di recarsi nel Regno Unito di Gran Bretagna ed Irlanda del Nord, senza dover sottostare all'obbligo di previamente ottenere un visto di ingresso, qualunque sia la località di partenza.
- (2) I titolari di passaporto valido recante sulla copertina la dicitura " British Passport " ed all'interno la indicazione " British Subject " saranno liberi di recarsi nel territorio metropolitano della Repubblica Italiana, partendo da qualsiasi località, senza dover previamente ottenere un visto di ingresso.
- (3) Resta inteso che l'esenzione dal visto non dispensa i sudditi britannici e i cittadini italiani che si recano rispettivamente in Italia e nel Regno Unito dall'osservanza delle leggi e dei regolamenti italiani e britannici concernenti l'ingresso, il transito, la residenza (temporanea o permanente), l'assunzione di un impiego e l'esercizio di una professione o di un mestiere da parte degli stranieri; e che a quei viaggiatori, i quali non fossero in grado di provare alle autorità competenti che il loro caso rientra in quelli contemplati da tali leggi e regolamenti, potrà essere rifiutato il permesso di ingresso o di sbarco.
- (4) È inteso che l'obbligo del visto rimane in vigore per quanto concerne i viaggi per le Colonie britanniche ed i possedimenti d'oltre mare, i protettorati o i territori sotto mandato o " trusteeship " del Regno Unito.

2. Ho l'onore di informare l'E.V. che il mio Governo è disposto a dare corso quanto prima alle misure sopra descritte e che pertanto il Governo italiano conviene con quello di V.E. che la presente Nota e quella di V.E. in data 6 dicembre 1947, redatta in termini analoghi, faranno fede dell'accordo intervenuto tra i due Governi che entrerà in vigore a partire dal giorno 1° gennaio 1948.

La prego gradire, &c.

(Signed) T. GALLARATI SCOTTI.

(Translation of No. 2)

Italian Embassy,

London, 6th December, 1947.

Signor Segretario di Stato,

In reply to the note of the 6th December, 1947, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to British territories and to Italy, the Italian Government are prepared to conclude with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom the following agreement:—

- (1) Italian citizens, provided with valid Italian passports, shall be permitted to travel to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland without the necessity of previously obtaining an entry visa, whatever may be the place of departure.

- (2) Holders of valid passports bearing, on the cover, the inscription "British Passport" and, inside, the indication "British subject" shall be free to travel from any place whatever to the metropolitan territory of the Italian Republic without having previously to obtain an entry visa.
- (3) It is understood that exemption from the visa requirement does not relieve British subjects and Italian citizens travelling respectively to Italy and to the United Kingdom from the obligation to comply with the Italian and British laws and regulations concerning the entry, transit, residence (temporary or permanent) of foreigners, or concerning the taking up of employment and the exercise of a profession or of a trade by foreigners, and that those travellers who are not able to prove to the competent authorities that they comply with those laws and regulations may be refused permission to enter or to land.
- (4) It is understood that the visa requirement remains in force as regards travel to British colonies and overseas possessions, protectorates or territories under United Kingdom mandate or trusteeship.

2. I have the honour to inform your Excellency that my Government are prepared to put into effect forthwith the measures described above, and that therefore the Italian Government agree with that of your Excellency that the present note and your Excellency's note of 6th December, 1947, in similar terms shall place on record the agreement reached between the two Governments, which shall enter in force on 1st January, 1948.

Please accept, &c.

(Signed) T. GALLARATI SCOTTI.

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