



Treaty Series No. 1 (1950)

# Exchange of Notes

between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom  
and the Royal Netherlands Government

extending the Visa Abolition Agreement  
of 21st March, 1947 to certain  
British Overseas Territories

[with Annex]

London, 1st/10th December, 1949

*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 ROYAL NETHERLANDS  
GOVERNMENT EXTENDING THE VISA ABOLITION AGREE-  
MENT OF 21st MARCH, 1947 TO CERTAIN BRITISH  
OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.**

*London, 1st/10th December, 1949*

No. 1

*Mr. Attlee to the Netherlands Ambassador in London*

Your Excellency,

*Foreign Office, 1st December, 1949.*

I HAVE the honour to refer to sub-paragraph 4 of the notes exchanged between the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and your Excellency on the 21st March, 1947,<sup>(1)</sup> embodying an agreement for the reciprocal abolition of visas for British subjects travelling to the Netherlands and Netherlands subjects travelling to the United Kingdom, and to inform you that, in accordance with their policy of extending freedom of travel, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have decided, after consultation with the Governments of the territories concerned, and without prejudice to the general application of sub-paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned notes, to extend the provisions of that agreement to Netherlands subjects travelling to the territories mentioned in the Annex to this note.

Accordingly, it is proposed that on and after 1st January, 1950, Netherlands subjects shall be free to travel from any place whatever to any of the territories mentioned in the Annex without the necessity of obtaining a visa, provided that they are furnished with valid Netherlands passports.

(a) It is understood that the waiver of the visa does not exempt Netherlands subjects travelling to any of the territories mentioned in the Annex from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations in force in the particular territory concerning the entry into it, or residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation in it, of foreigners, and that travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities in the territory that they comply with those laws and regulations are liable to be refused leave to enter or land.

(b) In most British overseas territories foreigners are not permitted to remain for more than a limited period, which does not normally exceed six months and may be less, without special authority, and they may be called upon as a condition of entry to provide reasonable evidence (such as a return or onward transport ticket) of their intention to leave the territory within the specified period. Similarly, foreigners wishing to undertake employment in such territories are usually required to obtain prior permission to do so and to produce proof of such permission before being admitted. Requirements, however, differ as between one territory and another, and it is therefore suggested that any notice or advice regarding the abolition of visas in relation to British overseas territories should emphasize the importance of intending travellers acquainting themselves fully with the requirements of the Immigration Laws and Regulations of the territory which they propose to visit.

I have the honour to request your Excellency to be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this note.

I have, &c.

(Sd.) C. R. ATTLEE.

(1) "Treaty Series No. 26 (1947)," Cmd. 7102.

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ANNEX

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Southern Rhodesia         | Mauritius                  |
| Aden                      | North Borneo               |
| Bahamas                   | Northern Rhodesia          |
| Barbados                  | St. Helena                 |
| Basutoland                | Seychelles                 |
| Bechuanaland Protectorate | Sierra Leone               |
| Bermuda                   | Singapore                  |
| British Guiana            | Swaziland                  |
| British Honduras          | Tanganyika                 |
| Brunei                    | Trinidad                   |
| Cyprus                    | Uganda                     |
| Falkland Islands          | Western Pacific:—          |
| Federation of Malaya      | Gilbert and Ellice Islands |
| Fiji                      | British Solomon Islands    |
| Jamaica                   | Windward Islands:—         |
| Kenya                     | Dominica                   |
| Leeward Islands:—         | Grenada                    |
| Antigua                   | St. Lucia                  |
| St. Kitts, Nevis          | St. Vincent                |
| Montserrat                | Zanzibar                   |
| Virgin Islands            |                            |

No. 2

*The Netherlands Ambassador in London to Mr. Attlee*

*Royal Netherlands Embassy,*

*London, 10th December, 1949.*

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's note of 1st December, 1949, in the following terms:—

[As in No. 1]

2. In taking note of the terms of your Excellency's communication I have the honour to state that no visa is required by British subjects, or, indeed, by anybody else, for travel to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.

I have, &c.

(Sd.) E. MICHIELS VAN VERDUYNEN.

LONDON

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