



Treaty Series No. 12 (1950)

Exchange of Notes

between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom
and the Government of the United States of America

Regarding Visas

London, 9th/12th November, 1948

*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
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REGARDING VISAS**

London, 9th/12th November, 1948

No. 1

The Minister of State to the United States Chargé d'Affaires

*Foreign Office, S.W. 1,
9th November, 1948.*

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, with a view to facilitating the movement of citizens of the United States of America to this country, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to abolish the visa requirement for United States citizens travelling to the United Kingdom.

2. Accordingly, on and after the 12th November, United States citizens will 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, provided that they are furnished with valid United States passports. The competent British officials are being instructed in this sense, and it is proposed to release to the Press a joint Foreign Office and Home Office announcement on the same date. I should be grateful if, on the American side, any announcement of this news could be similarly delayed, so as to allow time for the new procedure to be introduced smoothly.

3. You will appreciate that the abolition of the visa requirement does not exempt United States citizens coming to the United Kingdom from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of the United Kingdom concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners, and 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. I am conveying this information to you in the confident belief that the action we are taking will be for the mutual benefit of our two countries. I would at the same time express the hope of His Majesty's Government that, as a measure of reciprocity, the United States Government will give the greatest possible relief from United States visa charges and formalities to British subjects who are *bona fide* non-immigrants within the meaning of the immigration laws of the United States.

I have, &c.
(Sd.) HECTOR McNEIL.

No. 2

The United States Chargé d'Affaires to the Minister of State

American Embassy,

Sir,

London, 12th November, 1948.

I have the honour to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the receipt of your note, dated 9th November, 1948, informing me that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has decided, effective 12th November, 1948, to abolish the visa requirement for United States citizens travelling to the United Kingdom.

The Department of State was informed immediately upon receipt of the note under reference, of this gracious gesture of His Majesty's Government, and the Embassy has now been notified that the United States Government—effective 12th November—will grant to British subjects resident in the United Kingdom, in possession of valid British passports, who are eligible to enter the United States as *bona fide* non-immigrants, gratis passport visas, and in cases of temporary visitors, such visas may be made valid for entries over a period of twenty-four months, provided the passport concerned remains valid for that period. The same arrangement will be put into effect outside the United Kingdom for British subjects proceeding to the United States as temporary visitors, who are resident within the United Kingdom, but who are temporarily absent therefrom, as soon as American Diplomatic and Consular officers can be notified.

Accept, &c.
(Sd.) J. C. HOLMES.

LONDON

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