



Treaty Series No. 69 (1954)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and
the Government of Finland

regarding the Reciprocal Abolition of Visas

Helsinki, November 16, 1954

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
December 1954*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND REGARDING THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS

Helsinki, November 16, 1954

No. 1

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Helsinki to the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs

British Embassy,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Helsinki, November 16, 1954.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, with a view to facilitating travel between Finland and the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Finnish Government an agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) Finnish citizens holding valid Finnish passports shall be free to travel from any place whatever to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, for visits of up to three months' duration, without the necessity of obtaining a visa. For visits of over three months' duration a visa will still be required.
- (2) British subjects holding valid passports bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" at the top, and at the bottom the inscription "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" or "Jersey" or "Guernsey and its Dependencies" and, inside, the description of the holder's national status as "British subject," or "British subject; citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies," or "British subject; citizen of the United Kingdom, Islands and Colonies" shall be free to travel from any place whatever to Finland for visits of up to three months' duration, without the necessity of obtaining a visa. For visits of over three months' duration a visa will still be required.
- (3) The waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Finnish citizens and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and to Finland from the necessity of complying with the British and Finnish laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners. Travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations are liable to be refused leave to enter or to land.
- (4) The competent authorities of each country reserve the right to refuse leave to enter or stay in the country in any case where the person concerned is undesirable or otherwise ineligible under the general policy of the respective Governments relating to the entry of aliens.
- (5) The waiver of the visa requirement shall not exempt Finnish citizens travelling to British Colonies, overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship, or British subjects not in possession of passports as defined in sub-paragraph (2) above travelling to Finland from these territories or from any other place, from the need of obtaining a visa.
- (6) Either Government may suspend the agreement temporarily for reasons of public order, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the other Government through the diplomatic channel.

- (7) Either Government may denounce the agreement subject to one month's notice.
- (8) The present agreement will enter into force on the 16th of December, 1954.

2. If the Finnish 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 considered as placing on record the agreement between the two Governments.

I have, &c.
J. O. MAY.

No. 2

The Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Helsinki

Sir. *Helsinki, November 16, 1954.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of to-day's date, reading as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

In reply thereto, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Finland are in agreement with the foregoing proposals, and that your Note and the present reply shall be regarded as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments.

Accept, &c.
JOHANNES VIROLAINEN.

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