

PORTUGAL



Treaty Series No. 51 (1961)

Exchange of Notes

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

concerning the acceptance of the
British Visitor's Passport for travel between
the United Kingdom and Portugal,
including the Azores and Madeira

Lisbon, February 24/27, 1961

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
July 1961*

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

SIXPENCE NET

Cmnd. 1392

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRITISH VISITOR'S PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND PORTUGAL, INCLUDING THE AZORES AND MADEIRA

No. 1

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Lisbon to the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs

No. 66

Your Excellency,

British Embassy,

Lisbon, February 24, 1961.

You will be aware that in connexion with the question of the simplification of frontier formalities the Council of Europe and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation have recommended that Member countries of the Organisation should admit each other's nationals to their territory for visits of not more than three months on presentation of identity cards based on the standard form recognised by the Tourism Committee of the Organisation.

2. I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, as identity cards are not issued to residents of the United Kingdom, a simplified form of passport known as the British Visitor's Passport will be available for issue from the 15th of March, 1961, to British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A British Visitor's Passport will be valid for one year from the date of issue. An applicant for a British Visitor's Passport will not be required by the United Kingdom authorities to produce documentary evidence of his identity and national status, but he will be required to sign a declaration that he is a British subject, citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A specimen of the British Visitor's Passport is attached as an Annex to this Note.⁽¹⁾

3. I have now the honour to propose, on the instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Portugal conclude an Agreement in the following terms.

- (a) The Government of Portugal undertake to accept the British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport and to permit holders to enter and stay in Continental Portugal and the Adjacent Islands without the necessity of obtaining a visa and subject to the following conditions :
- (i) A visit to Continental Portugal and the Adjacent Islands shall not exceed three months and shall not be for employment.
 - (ii) A visitor who enters Continental Portugal and the Adjacent Islands on presentation of a British Visitor's Passport and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than three months shall

⁽¹⁾ Not reproduced.

be required to obtain a passport bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" before the expiry of the three months' period.

- (iii) Holders of British Visitor's Passports proceeding to Continental Portugal and the Adjacent Islands shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of Portugal relating to the entry and residence of foreigners. Travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations may be refused leave to enter or to land.
- (iv) The right is reserved to the competent authorities of Portugal to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in Continental Portugal or the Adjacent Islands in any case where that person is otherwise ineligible under the general policy of the Government of Portugal relating to the entry or stay of foreigners.
- (v) The Government of Portugal may suspend the foregoing provisions in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public policy and/or national security, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the Government of the United Kingdom through the diplomatic channel.

(b) The Government of the United Kingdom undertake to take back into their territory at any time holders of British Visitor's Passports who have entered Continental Portugal and the Adjacent Islands.

4. If the above proposals are acceptable to the Government of Portugal, I have the honour to suggest that the present Note, together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense, should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the 15th of March, 1961 and remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' written notice of termination to the other.

I have &c.

A. D. M. ROSS.

No. 2

The Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Lisbon

Senhor Embaixador,

Lisboa, 27 de Fevereiro de 1961.

Tenho a honra de acusar a recepção da Nota de Vossa Excelência N.º 66, de 24 do corrente, com a proposta do Acordo relativo ao Passaporte Britânico de Visitante, nos termos seguintes:

(a) O Governo Português compromete-se a aceitar o Passaporte Britânico de Visitante como um passaporte válido e autorizar os seus portadores a entrarem e permanecerem em Portugal Continental e Ilhas Adjacentes sem a necessidade de obterem visto e nas seguintes condições:

(I) As visitas a Portugal Continental e Ilhas Adjacentes não excederão três meses e não se destinarão a fins de emprego.

- (II) Um visitante que entre em Portugal Continental e Ilhas Adjacentes apresentando um Passaporte Britânico de Visitante e que posteriormente obtenha autorização para permanecer por mais de três meses, terá que munir-se de um passaporte que na parte exterior tenha os dizeres "British Passport", antes de expirar o período de três meses.
- (III) Os portadores de Passaportes Britânicos de Visitante que se dirijam à Portugal Continental e Ilhas Adjacentes não serão isentos da necessidade de cumprirem as leis e regulamentos portugueses no que respeita à entrada e residência de estrangeiros. Aos viajantes incapazes de demonstrar às autoridades competentes que satisfazem a estas leis e regulamentos pode ser-lhes recusada autorização de entrada ou desembarque.
- (IV) E reservado o direito às competentes autoridades portuguesas de recusarem autorização a qualquer pessoa para entrar ou permanecer em Portugal Continental ou Ilhas Adjacentes em qualquer caso em que essa pessoa seja considerada como não abrangida pelas normas gerais do Governo Português no que respeita à entrada ou permanência de estrangeiros.
- (V) O Governo Português pode suspender totalmente ou temporariamente em parte as disposições precedentes, por razões de ordem pública ou de segurança nacional, devendo a suspensão ser imediatamente notificada ao Governo do Reino Unido por via diplomática.
- (b) O Governo do Reino Unido compromete-se a aceitar em qualquer tempo no seu território os portadores de Passaportes Britânicos de Visitante que tiverem entrado em Portugal Continental e Ilhas Adjacentes.

Em conformidade com a proposta de Vossa Excelência, tenho ainda a honra de comunicar que o Governo Português concorda em considerar a mencionada Nota de Vossa Excelência N.º. 66 e esta Nota de reposta como constituindo o Acordo entre os dois Governos sobre a matéria, o qual entrará em vigor em 15 de Março de 1961 e continuará vigorando pelo período de um ano e daí em diante até que qualquer dos Governos o tenha denunciado com seis meses de antecedência.

Aproveito, etc.

MARCELLO MATHIAS.

[Translation of No. 2]

Your Excellency,

Lisbon, February 27, 1961.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note N.º. 66 of the 24th of February in which you proposed that an Agreement should be concluded concerning the British Visitor's Passport in the following terms:

[As in No. 1].

In accordance with Your Excellency's proposal I have the honour to inform you that the Portuguese Government agree to regard Your Excellency's Note N°. 66 together with this reply as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments on this matter, which shall enter into force on the 15th of March, 1961 and shall remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' notice of termination.

I avail, &c.

MARCELLO MATHIAS.

