

N° 4666.

**GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET IRLANDE DU NORD
ET POLOGNE**

**Echange de notes réglant en principe l'utili-
sation d'unités de la marine marchande
polonaise. Londres, les 12 octobre et
25 novembre 1939.**

*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires étran-
gères de Sa Majesté en Grande-Bretagne. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le
3 janvier 1940.*

**GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND POLAND**

**Exchange of Notes regulating in Principle the
Utilisation of Units of the Polish Mercan-
tile Marine. London, October 12th and
November 25th, 1939.**

*English official text communicated by His Majesty's Secretary of State for
Foreign Affairs in Great Britain. The registration took place January
3rd, 1940.*

No. 4666. — EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE POLISH GOVERNMENT REGULATING IN PRINCIPLE THE UTILISATION OF UNITS OF THE POLISH MERCANTILE MARINE. LONDON, OCTOBER 12TH AND NOVEMBER 25TH, 1939.

I.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

No. C 15779/201/55.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

October 12th, 1939.

I have the honour to propose that the following arrangements should be accepted regulating in principle the co-operation between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Polish Government in respect of the utilisation of units of the Polish Mercantile Marine in the common effort for the successful prosecution of the war against Germany and the transport of essential commodities to and from allied countries.

(1) In furtherance of this object merchant ships of both countries and other allied or neutral ships which may be at the disposal of the two Governments shall be employed on terms and conditions to be agreed upon between the two Governments.

(2) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree that Poland is entitled to have a representative on any inter-allied sea transport organisation which may be appointed to deal with the appropriation of available merchant shipping to meet overlapping allied requirements. The mode of operation of this inter-allied sea transport organisation shall be subsequently determined by agreement between the Governments concerned.

(3) Passenger ships under the Polish flag will be allocated by the inter-allied sea transport organisation for use as troop transports on terms and conditions to be agreed upon between the interested Governments.

(4) Polish fishing vessels are entitled to utilise British ports as bases.

(5) The competent authorities of the two Governments shall exchange information as to the reliability of the trading and transport agencies which are or may be employed.

(6) His Majesty's naval forces shall afford to units of the Polish Mercantile Marine carrying essential commodities to or from allied countries the same convoy protection as is afforded to United Kingdom ships.

2. I have the honour to suggest that, if the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Polish Government, the present note and Your Excellency's reply to that effect be regarded as placing on formal record the understanding between the two Governments in this matter.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

HALIFAX.

His Excellency Count Edward Raczyński,
etc., etc., etc.

¹ Came into force November 25th, 1939.

II.

POLISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

No. 49/WB/tj/593.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

November 25th, 1939.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the note of Your Excellency of the 12th October, 1939, No. C 15779/201/55, worded as follows :

(Here follows the text of Note No. I.)

I have the honour to state that the proposals contained in the above-mentioned note are acceptable to the Polish Government and that they agree to Your Excellency's note and the present reply being regarded as placing on formal record the understanding between the two Governments in this matter.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant.

E. RACZYŃSKI,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

His Excellency the Right Honourable

Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., etc., etc.,

H. M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office, S.W. 1.