

No. 160

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND
and
SWITZERLAND**

**Exchange of Notes regarding the reciprocal abolition of visas.
London, 10 June 1947**

English and French official texts communicated by the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations. The registration took place on 26 November 1947.

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET
D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
SUISSE**

**Echange de notes relatif à la suppression réciproque des visas.
Londres, 10 juin 1947**

Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le représentant permanent du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 26 novembre 1947.

No. 160 EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE SWISS GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS. LONDON, 10 JUNE 1947

No. 1

Mr. Ernest Bevin to M. Paul Ruegger

FOREIGN OFFICE

10th June, 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to Switzerland and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of the Swiss Confederation an agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) Swiss citizens shall 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 in advance provided that they are furnished with valid Swiss passports.
- (2) Holders of valid passports bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" and, inside, the description of the holder's national status as "British subject" shall be free to travel from any place whatever to Switzerland without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.
- (3) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Swiss citizens and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to Switzerland from the necessity of complying with the British and the Swiss laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners, and that 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.

¹ Came into force on 24 June 1947, by the exchange, and according to the terms, of the said notes.

- (4)—(a) Swiss citizens who wish to proceed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take employment are required to obtain, in advance, through their future employer, a labour permit from the Ministry of Labour and National Service.
- (b) British subjects who wish to proceed to Switzerland to take employment are required to obtain in advance, through the competent Swiss diplomatic or consular representative, or through their future employer, an “Assurance de l’octroi d’une autorisation de séjour” stating that they will be authorised to take employment in Switzerland.
- (5) As regards travel to British colonies and overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship, it is understood that visas will continue to be required.
- (6) The foregoing provisions shall also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to nationals of the Principality of Liechtenstein travelling to the United Kingdom and to British subjects travelling to the Principality.

2. If the Swiss 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 regarded as placing on record the agreement between the two Governments, which shall take effect on 24th June, 1947.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Ernest BEVIN

No. 2

M. Paul Ruegger to Mr. Ernest Bevin

LÉGATION DE SUISSE À LONDRES

Le 10 juin 1947

M. le Secrétaire d’Etat,

J’ai l’honneur d’accuser réception de la lettre de ce jour par laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire savoir que, dans le but de rétablir progressivement la liberté de circulation entre la Suisse et les territoires britanniques, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Royaume-Uni est disposé à conclure avec le Gouvernement suisse un accord dans les termes suivants:

- (1) Les ressortissants suisses pourront se rendre dans le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d’Irlande du Nord, quel que soit leur point de départ, sans être astreints à l’obtention préalable d’un visa, pourvu qu’ils soient munis d’un passeport suisse valide.

N° 2

Mr. Paul Ruegger to Mr. Ernest Bevin

SWISS LEGATION AT LONDON

10 June 1947

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of today's date, informing me that, with a view to restoring gradually the freedom of travel to Switzerland and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Swiss Government an agreement in the following terms:

[*As in paragraphs 1 to 6 of Note No. 1, pages 218 and 219*]

2. I have been instructed to inform you that the Swiss Government are prepared to apply the foregoing provisions and will consider your note and the present reply as constituting an agreement between our two Governments, which shall take effect on 24 June 1947.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Paul RUEGGER
