

No. 161

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

**Exchange of Notes regarding the reciprocal abolition of visas.  
London, 20 June 1947**

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

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

**Echange de notes relatif à la suppression réciproque des visas.  
Londres, 20 juin 1947**

*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le représentant permanent du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 26 novembre 1947.*

No. 161. EXCHANGE OF NOTES<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND REGARDING THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS. LONDON, 20 JUNE 1947

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No. 1

*Mr. Ernest Bevin to M. Stefán Thórvarðsson*

FOREIGN OFFICE

20th 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 Iceland and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of Iceland an Agreement in the following terms:—

1. Icelandic 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 Icelandic 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 Iceland without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.
3. It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Icelandic citizens and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to Iceland from the necessity of complying with the British and the Icelandic 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 July 1947, by the exchange, and according to the terms, of the said notes.

4. 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.

If the Icelandic 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 1st July, 1947.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Ernest BEVIN

No. 2

*M. Stefán Thórvarðsson to Mr. Ernest Bevin*

ICELANDIC LEGATION

London, S.W.1, 20th June, 1947

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of to-day's date in which you inform me that, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to Iceland and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of Iceland an Agreement in the following terms:—

*[Here follows the text of paragraphs 1-4 of Note No. 1]*

I have the honour to inform you that the Icelandic Government are prepared to accept the foregoing provisions and that your note and the present reply in similar terms shall be regarded as placing on record the Agreement between the two Governments, which shall take effect on 1st July, 1947.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Stefán THÓRVARÐSSON