

No. 163

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

**Exchange of Notes concerning the mutual abolition of visas.
London, 24 and 27 December 1946**

English and French official texts communicated by the United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations. The registration took place on 4 December 1947.

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

**Echange de notes relatif à la suppression réciproque des visas.
Londres, 24 et 27 décembre 1946**

Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le représentant du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 4 décembre 1947.

No. 163. EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF VISAS. (LONDON, 24 AND 27 DECEMBER 1946)

No. 1

Mr. Ernest Bevin to M. R. Massigli

FOREIGN OFFICE

24th December, 1946

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, in order to carry into effect the understanding regarding the mutual abolition of visas which was reached between M. Bidault and myself on 11th October last, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of the freedom of travel which existed between British and French territories before the war, to conclude with the Government of the French Republic an agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) French citizens shall be free to travel to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by any route without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance provided that they are furnished with valid French 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 to metropolitan France and Algeria by any route without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.
- (3) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt French citizens and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to metropolitan France or Algeria from the necessity of complying with the British and the French laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and em-

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

ployment 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.

- (4) As regards travel to French or British colonies and overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship, it is understood that visas will continue to be required.

2. If the French 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 January, 1947.

I have, &c.

Ernest BEVIN

N° 2

M. R. Massigli to Mr. Ernest Bevin

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

Londres, le 27 décembre 1946

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre en date du 24 décembre par laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire savoir qu'en vue du rétablissement progressif de la liberté de la circulation des personnes existant avant la guerre entre les territoires britanniques et français, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté est disposé à se mettre d'accord avec le Gouvernement de la République Française sur les dispositions suivantes :

- 1) Les citoyens français auront la liberté de se rendre par une voie quelconque dans le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord sans être astreints à l'obtention préalable d'un visa, pourvu qu'ils soient munis de passeports français en cours de validité.
- 2) Les titulaires de passeports en cours de validité et portant sur la couverture l'inscription "British Passport" et à l'intérieur la mention "British subject" auront la liberté de se rendre en France Métropolitaine et en Algérie par toutes les frontières sans être astreints à l'obtention préalable d'un visa.

No. 2

FRENCH EMBASSY

London, 27 December 1946

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated 24 December by which you informed me that with a view to the eventual restoration of the freedom of travel which existed between British and French territories before the war, His Majesty's Government are prepared to conclude with the Government of the French Republic an agreement in the following terms:

[Here follows the text of paragraphs 1 to 4 of Note No. 1, pages 256 and 257]

I have the honour to inform you that the French Government is prepared to apply the foregoing provisions and that they will consider your Excellency's letter and the present reply as constituting an agreement between the two Governments which shall take effect on 1 January 1947.

I have, etc.

(Signed) R. MASSIGLI
