

No. 164

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

**Exchange of Notes for the reciprocal abolition of visas on  
British and Belgian passports. London, 5 February 1947**

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

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

**Echange de notes relatif à la suppression réciproque des visas  
pour les passeports britanniques et belges. Londres,  
5 février 1947**

*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. 164. EXCHANGE OF NOTES<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS ON BRITISH AND BELGIAN PASSPORTS. LONDON, 5 FEBRUARY 1947

No. 1

*Mr. Ernest Bevin to Vicomte Alain Obert de Thieusies*

FOREIGN OFFICE

5th February, 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 Belgian and British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of Belgium an agreement in the following terms:—

(1) Belgian subjects 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 Belgian 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 Belgium without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.

(3) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Belgian subjects and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to Belgium from the necessity of complying with the British and the Belgian 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. British subjects wishing to settle permanently in Belgium will first have to apply to the competent Belgian diplomatic and consular authorities for the entry in their travel documents of a statement to the effect that they are authorised to settle permanently in Belgium.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 15 February 1947, by the exchange, and according to the terms, of the said notes.

(4) As regards travel to Belgian 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 Belgian 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 15th February, 1947.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ERNEST BEVIN

N° 2

*Vicomte Alain Obert de Thieusies to Mr. Ernest Bevin*

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

Londres, le 5 février 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 les territoires belge et britannique, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté dans le Royaume-Uni est disposé à conclure avec le Gouvernement belge un accord dans les termes suivants:

1) Les sujets belges pourront se rendre dans le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, quel que soit leur point de départ et par une voie quelconque, sans être astreints à l'obtention préalable d'un visa, pourvu qu'ils soient munis d'un passeport belge valide.

2) Les détenteurs de passeports valides portant sur la couverture l'inscription "British Passport" et à l'intérieur la mention "British subject", seront libres de se rendre en Belgique, quel que soit leur point de départ et par toutes les voies, sans être astreints à l'obtention préalable d'un visa.

3) Il est entendu que l'exemption du visa ne dispense pas les sujets belges et britanniques se rendant respectivement dans le Royaume-Uni et en Belgique de l'obligation de se conformer aux lois et règlements britanniques et belges concernant l'entrée, la résidence (temporaire ou permanente) ainsi que l'emploi des étrangers et que les intéressés qui ne pourraient établir devant les autorités compétentes qu'ils satisfont à ces lois et règlements pourront se voir refuser l'autorisation d'entrer ou de débarquer.

No. 2

*Vicomte Alain Obert de Thieusies à M. Ernest Bevin*

BELGIAN EMBASSY

London, 5 February 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date in which you inform me that, with the object of the eventual restoration of freedom of travel between Belgian and British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Belgian Government an agreement in the following terms:

[*Here follows text of paragraphs 1 to 4 of Note No. 1, pages 262-263*]

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Belgian Government are prepared to apply the foregoing provisions and that they will consider Your Excellency's letter and the present reply as constituting an agreement between our two Governments, which shall take effect on 15 February 1947.

I have, etc.

(Signed) OBERT DE THIEUSIES