

No. 119

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**BELGIUM**  
and  
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Bilateral agreement concerning the repatriation of their  
nationals displaced as a result of hostilities. Signed at  
Brussels, on 16 May 1945**

*French official text communicated by the Officer in charge of the Permanent  
Belgian Delegation to the United Nations. The filing and recording took  
place on 16 November 1948.*

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**BELGIQUE**  
et  
**TCHECOSLOVAQUIE**

**Accord bilatéral concernant le rapatriement de leurs ressortis-  
sants déplacés par fait de guerre. Signé à Bruxelles, le  
16 mai 1945**

*Texte officiel français communiqué par le Chargé de la gestion de la délégation  
permanente de Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Le  
classement et l'inscription au répertoire ont eu lieu le 16 novembre 1948.*

## TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 119. BILATERAL AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE REPATRIATION OF THEIR NATIONALS DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITIES. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 16 MAY 1945

The present agreement is concluded by and between the Belgium Government, represented by His Excellency Mr. Paul VAN ZEELAND, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Commissioner for Repatriation, of the first part, and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic represented by His Excellency, Mr. Vladimir SLAVIK, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, of the second part.

1. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to facilitate and assist in the repatriation of the prisoners of war, deported persons, and refugees, and of any nationals of the other party who, having been displaced as a result of hostilities (in the case of Czechoslovakia, displaced since 28 September 1938), are in its territory at the time of the liberation or subsequently.
2. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to receive in its territory and to repatriate nationals of the other party arriving from an enemy country, from former enemy-occupied territory, or from a neutral country, who cross its frontier whether on their own initiative or in organized groups.
3. 1. Pending repatriation, the displaced persons shall be treated by each of the High Contracting Parties, respectively, on a footing of equality with their own nationals in such matters as shelter, food, medical and social services and the application of restrictive health measures.  
2. They may be used for voluntary employment in accordance with the regulations in force in their place of work, subject to the following reservations:  
(a) in no case may the nature of the work cause a delay in repatriation;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 May 1945, as from the date of signature, in accordance with article 10.

- (b) the workers shall receive the local wages, bonuses and allowances;
  - (c) they shall be entitled to the benefit of the provisions for the protection of labour laid down in local law and in international agreements.
4. On the partial or total liberation of its territory, and subject, during the military period, to the authorization of the competent military authority, each of the High Contracting Parties shall permit a national mission from the other party to enter its liberated territory; this mission shall be attached to the Ministry or Commissariat for Repatriation and shall co-ordinate its own activities with the directives given by the said Ministry or Commissariat.

The task of this Mission shall be to assist the Government of the country to which it is accredited in the repatriation of its nationals, within the general framework of national and international repatriation operations.

Its specific functions shall be:

- (a) to assist in the identification of displaced persons who are nationals of the High Contracting Party represented by the mission;
- (b) to issue repatriation permits;
- (c) to advise and help the local authorities in all matters concerning the assistance, maintenance and repatriation of the displaced persons for whom it is responsible.

For these purposes, it shall be granted every travelling facility and all necessary permits for visiting the camps, centres and assembly points at which there are any of its nationals. In addition, the mission shall enjoy customs immunity and all postal facilities for any parcels, foodstuffs and medical supplies, and, in general, any products and articles whether addressed to members of the mission or to persons awaiting repatriation for whom it is responsible.

5. The chief of the national mission, on the one hand, and the authorities responsible for repatriation in the country to which he is accredited, on the other hand, may establish on the spot a permanent joint mission, consisting of not more than three representatives of each of the High Contracting Parties, with instructions to submit suggestions likely to lead to the solution of such questions as the parties concerned may, by common agreement, refer to it.

6. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes, as far as possible, to call upon the members of the national mission of the other party for assistance in the repatriation operations with respect to the nationals of the latter party.
7. As regards displaced persons who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and whose permanent domicile was on the territory of the other party each of the High Contracting Parties, while recognizing its inability to give a general or formal guarantee to re-admit all these persons to its territory, undertakes nevertheless to give humane consideration to any applications for re-admission which have the approval of the delegates of the Government applied to.
8. Each of the High Contracting Parties shall consult with the other party on the possibility of drawing up priority lists.
8. The obligations assumed under the present agreement shall be without prejudice to any internal measure which the High Contracting Parties may deem it necessary to adopt for reasons of public health or security, or which may be taken by inter-allied bodies in conformity with international agreements applicable in the country concerned.
10. The present agreement shall be concluded for a period of three months from the date of its signature. It shall be renewed by tacit agreement for similar periods, unless it is denounced by either party one month before the expiry of these periods.
11. The financial questions arising out of the present agreement shall be studied and settled at a later date.
12. UNRRA shall be notified of the present agreement.

DONE in duplicate on 16 May 1945, one copy being delivered to each of the High Contracting Parties.

(Signed) Vladimír SLAVIK

(Signed) P. VAN ZEELAND