

No. 120

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**BELGIUM**  
and  
**NETHERLANDS**

**Bilateral agreement concerning the repatriation of their nationals displaced as a result of hostilities. Signed at London, on 2 January 1945**

*French and Dutch official texts communicated by the Officer in charge of the Permanent Belgian Delegation to the United Nations. The filing and recording took place on 26 November 1948.*

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**BELGIQUE**  
et  
**PAYS-BAS**

**Accord bilatéral concernant le rapatriement de leurs ressortissants déplacés par fait de guerre. Signé à Londres, le 2 janvier 1945**

*Textes officiels français et néerlandais communiqués 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 26 novembre 1948.*

## TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 120. BILATERAL AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS CONCERNING THE REPATRIATION OF THEIR NATIONALS DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF HOSTILITIES. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 2 JANUARY 1945

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The present agreement is concluded by and between the Government of the Netherlands represented by His Excellency Dr. Jan VAN DEN TEMPEL, Minister of Social Affairs, of the first part, and the Government of Belgium represented by His Excellency Mr. Paul VAN ZEELAND, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Commissioner for Repatriation, of the second part.

1. Each of the High Contracting Parties undertakes to facilitate and expedite the repatriation of the prisoners of war, deported persons and refugees and any other nationals of the other party who, having been displaced as a result of hostilities, are in its territory at the time of 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 enemy occupied territory or from a neutral country, who cross its frontier whether on their own initiative or in organized groups.

3. Pending their repatriation, 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 sanitary measures.

4. Immediately upon the partial or total liberation of its territory, and subject, during the military period, to the authorization of the competent military authorities, 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 mission shall consist of a head of the mission and of such staff as circumstances require. Its composition shall be subject to the approval of the other party.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 2 January 1945, as from the date of signature, in accordance with paragraph 10.

The task of each 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 work on repatriation.

For that purpose 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 be exempt from customs formalities and enjoy every postal facility for all parcels, food, medical supplies and in general all products, possessions and objects whether addressed to members of the mission or to persons awaiting repatriation for whom it is responsible.

Its functions shall be:

(a) to help in the identification of displaced persons who claim the nationality of the High Contracting Party represented by the said mission;

(b) to issue repatriation permits;

(c) to advise and assist the local authorities with regard to the assistance, maintenance and repatriation of the displaced persons for whom it is responsible.

5. The head 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 commission composed 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 operation with respect to the latter's nationals.

7. As regards displaced persons who are nationals of one of the Contracting Parties and whose permanent domicile was in the territory of the other party, each of the High Contracting Parties, while recognizing that it cannot give a general or formal guarantee that it will re-admit all those persons to its territory, undertakes nevertheless to give humane consideration to any applications for re-admission which have the approval of the representative of the Government to which the applications are submitted.

8. Each of the High Contracting Parties shall consult with the other party on the possibility of drawing up priority lists.

9. The obligations assumed under this agreement shall be without prejudice to any general internal measures 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 organizations in conformity with international agreements applicable in the countries 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 each of these periods.

11. The financial questions arising out of the present agreement shall be studied and settled later.

12. UNRRA shall be notified of the present agreement.

13. The French and Dutch texts of the present agreement are equally authentic.

DONE in duplicate, in French and Dutch, one copy in each language being delivered to each of the High Contracting Parties.

DONE in London on 2 January 1945.

(Signed) Paul VAN ZEELAND  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Commissioner  
for Repatriation

(Signed) J. VAN DEN TEMPEL  
Minister of Social Affairs