

**No. 524**

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**BELGIUM  
and  
SWITZERLAND**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning the reciprocal issue, free of charge, of certain civil status records. Berne, 15 and 21 March 1949**

*French official text communicated by the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations. The registration took place on 18 August 1949.*

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**BELGIQUE  
et  
SUISSE**

**Echange de notes constituant un accord concernant la délivrance gratuite et réciproque de certains actes de l'état civil. Berne, 15 et 21 mars 1949**

*Texte officiel français communiqué par le représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 18 août 1949.*

## TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION

No. 524. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND CONCERNING THE RECIPROCAL ISSUE, FREE OF CHARGE, OF CERTAIN CIVIL STATUS RECORDS. BERNE, 15 AND 21 MARCH 1949

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## I

The Belgian Legation presents its compliments to the Federal Political Department and has the honour to inform it that, in order to ensure the reciprocal issue, free of charge, of copies of certain civil status records required for administrative purposes or for indigent persons, the Belgian Government is prepared to conclude an agreement with the Federal Council in the following terms:

*“Article I*

“The Federal Registry Office at Berne shall supply the Belgian Legation or Belgian consulates free of charge with literal copies of civil status records drawn up in Switzerland and relating to Belgian subjects born, recognized, legitimated, adopted, married or deceased in Switzerland whenever such copies are requested for administrative purposes or where the applicant is indigent.

“In addition, this Office shall supply the above-mentioned Belgian representatives free of charge with death certificates drawn up in Switzerland and relating to persons born or domiciled in Belgium whenever such copies are requested for administrative purposes.

*“Article II*

“The local Belgian authorities shall supply the Swiss Legation or Swiss consulates in Belgium free of charge with literal copies of civil status records drawn up in Belgium and relating to Swiss subjects born, recognized, legitimated, adopted, married or deceased in Belgium whenever such copies are requested for administrative purposes or where the applicant is indigent.

*“Article III*

“The grounds for such requests shall be briefly indicated. Mention will be made, for example, of ‘administrative purposes’ or ‘Belgian (or Swiss) applicant indigent’.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 21 March 1949, by the exchange of the said notes.

“Records drawn up in Switzerland in the German or Italian language and records drawn up in Belgium in the Flemish language shall be accompanied by a French translation duly certified by the competent authority.

“The issue of a copy of a civil status record shall in no way affect the question of the nationality of the person concerned.

*“Article IV*

“The present agreement shall come into force immediately. It shall cease to be effective on the expiry of a period of six months following its denunciation duly notified by either of the Contracting Parties.”

The present note and the Political Department’s reply thereto sent to the Legation shall constitute the agreement between the two Governments.

The Belgian Legation takes the opportunity to renew to the Federal Political Department the assurances of its high consideration.

Berne, 15 March 1949.

[SEAL]

To the Federal Political Department  
Berne

II

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

p. B. 14.21. B. 5-ZR.

The Federal Political Department presents its compliments to the Belgian Legation and has the honour to refer to the Legation’s note of 15 March 1949 informing the Department that, in order to ensure the reciprocal issue, free of charge, of copies of certain civil status records required for administrative purposes or for indigent persons, the Belgian Government is prepared to conclude with the Swiss Federal Council an agreement in the following terms:

*[See note I]*

The Department has been instructed by the Swiss Federal Council to inform the Legation that it considers the Legation’s foregoing note and the present reply as constituting the agreement between the two Governments.

The Political Department takes this opportunity to renew to the Legation the assurance of its high consideration.

Berne, 21 March 1949.

[SEAL]

To the Belgian Legation  
Berne