

No. 721

**BELGIUM
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Agreement concerning the status and admission into Belgium of
displaced persons at present in the American zone of
Germany. Signed at Brussels, on 23 January 1947**

*Official texts : French and English.
Registered by Belgium on 17 February 1950.*

**BELGIQUE
et
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**

**Accord relatif au statut et à l'admission en Belgique des personnes
déplacées séjournant actuellement dans la zone américaine
d'Allemagne. Signé à Bruxelles, le 23 janvier 1947**

*Textes officiels français et anglais.
Enregistré par la Belgique le 17 février 1950.*

No. 721. AGREEMENT ¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING THE STATUS AND ADMISSION INTO BELGIUM OF DISPLACED PERSONS AT PRESENT IN THE AMERICAN ZONE OF GERMANY. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 23 JANUARY 1947

REPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE RESETTLEMENT OF
« DISPLACED PERSONS » IN BELGIUM

On January 22nd and 23rd, 1947 the undersigned representatives of the Belgian Government, the United States Forces in European Territories and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees assembled at Brussels and proposed certain agreements regarding the resettlement in Belgium of « displaced persons », now in the American Zone in Germany. These proposals consist of the following attached documents :

- (a) A proposal regarding the status of such persons and the conditions of their admission into Belgium;
- (b) A form of contract between the individuals concerned and the Federation of Coal Mines of Belgium;
- (c) A statement by the Belgian Government to accompany the contract guaranteeing the rights of the individuals concerned and defining their obligations in Belgium.

The proposed agreements will become effective upon approval by the Belgian Government and the United States Military authorities in Germany. The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees will be informed of the date of final approval.

For the I. G. C. R. :
(Signed) John S. Wood
Dep. Director
Germany and Austria

¹ Came into force on 10 March 1947, by exchange of notes. This agreement does not apply to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

For U. S. F. E. T. :

(Signed) R. E. NEIMAN
Major G. S. C.

For the Belgian Government :

(Signed) F. VINGK
Chef de Cabinet
(Signed) GUVELIER

PROPOSAL FOR THE RESETTLEMENT IN BELGIUM OF DISPLACED PERSONS NOW IN THE AMERICAN ZONE IN GERMANY

I

This document explains the status and protection guaranteed by the Belgian Government to the individuals concerned and specifies their rights and duties.

The attached contract with the Federation of Coal Mines is guaranteed by the Belgian Government and insures regular and permanent employment. It specifies the conditions of employment and wages.

II

Individuals who have never collaborated in any way with the Nazi regime and who are acceptable to representatives of the Belgian Government and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees are offered an immediate opportunity to begin a normal and free life in Belgium.

III

They will be admitted to Belgium, and may, after 90 days, be joined by members of their immediate family (wife and minor children). Other dependants may be admitted after individual arrangements with the Belgian Government through the agency of I. G. C. R. All persons so admitted will be encouraged to

remain in Belgium and will be given an opportunity to receive Belgian citizenship according to Belgian law.

IV

Volunteers signing the contract will be transported to the Belgian frontier by the American authorities. Volunteers will be permitted to bring with them all their legal belongings.

V

The Federation of Coal Mines with the aid of the Belgian Government is responsible for their transportation within Belgium, also their accommodation, feeding and employment.

VI

The foreign workers will enjoy exactly the same working and living conditions and wages as Belgian workers performing the same job, and will be treated in exactly the same manner. They are free to join the trade-unions of their choice.

VII

The Belgian Government guarantees to these persons all rights and liberties granted by its law to foreigners permanently established in Belgium.

VIII

The legal and political protection of individuals accepting the contract will be assumed by I. G. C. R. acting under its mandate in such matters.

IX

When requested by the worker the Belgian Government guarantees successive renewals of the contract. No amendment to this contract can be made without governmental approval.

X

The following conditions govern the return of unsuitable individuals to Germany :

- (a) Workers who break their contract for reasons other than those specified therein, or who are found unsuitable for underground employment or for employment in any other occupations in Belgium, or who endanger, by their actions or propaganda, the public order or safety in Belgium may be returned to the U. S. Zone of Germany as long as the U. S. Forces are responsible for displaced persons in Germany. U. S. military authorities will outline their responsibilities for displaced persons under this agreement to whatever authority becomes responsible for displaced persons in Germany and will do all in their power to effectuate the continuation of this agreement.
- (b) In each case calling for the return of unsuitable individuals to the U. S. zone, the Belgian Government will notify I. G. C. R. of the circumstances and will give due consideration to any objections presented by I. G. C. R. within a period of 15 days. The Belgian Government will arrange transportation of the individuals from the place of employment or residence in Belgium to an agreed Belgian frontier point, where U. S. authorities will arrange their return to the U. S. zone of Germany.
- (c) For each worker so returned, the Belgian Government agrees to accept a substitute.

XI

After a satisfactory probationary period of ninety days married workers will be permitted to bring their wife and minor children to Belgium. U. S. Authorities will arrange transportation to the Belgian frontier of these persons, and other dependents who may be admitted by the Belgian Government. The Belgian Government will be responsible for insuring that the Federation of Coal Mines furnishes transportation within Belgium, and provides adequate living quarters for the workers and their families.

XII

Workers are permitted to cancel the contract as prescribed therein. They may then obtain from the Belgian Government the documents necessary to leave Belgium.

STATUS AND PROTECTION GUARANTEED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
TO DISPLACED PERSONS ADMITTED INTO BELGIUM ¹

III

They will be admitted to Belgium, and may be joined by members of their immediate family (wife and minor children). Other dependents may be admitted after individual arrangements with the Belgian Government through the agency of I. G. C. R. All persons so admitted will be encouraged to remain in Belgium and will be given an opportunity to receive Belgian citizenship according to Belgian law.

X

Workers who break the contract for reasons other than specified therein, or who are found unsuitable for underground employment, or for employment in other occupations in Belgium, or who by their actions or propaganda endanger the public order or safety in Belgium may be returned to the U. S. zone in Germany.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

I

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN EMBASSY, BRUSSELS

February 11, 1947

Dear Monsieur Vinck,

The Embassy has been requested by General McNarney to advise you that the United States military authorities in Germany agree to assume their responsibilities under the Proposal for Resettlement of Displaced Persons in Belgium

¹ With the exception of paragraphs III and X, which are reproduced above, the text of the « Status and protection guaranteed by the Belgian Government to displaced persons admitted into Belgium » is identical with the text of the « Proposal for the resettlement in Belgium of displaced persons now in the American zone in Germany ». (See page 26)

as formulated by representatives of the Belgian Government and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in Brussels at the meetings on January 22 and 23¹. This undertaking is based on the understanding that, upon approval by the Belgian Government, this Proposal becomes an official agreement between the Belgian Government and the Inter governmental Committee on Refugees. The United States military authorities in Germany also agree to outline their responsibilities for displaced persons under the agreement to whatever authority may succeed them in responsibility for displaced persons in Germany and to do everything in their power to effect continuation of the agreement.

I should be grateful if you would advise the Embassy and the Intergovernmental Committee as soon as the agreement has been approved by the Belgian Government.

Sincerely yours,

For the Ambassador :
(Signed) Theodore C. ACHILLES
First Secretary of Embassy

Monsieur F. Vinck
Chef de Cabinet of the Prime Minister
16, rue de la Loi
Brussels

II

TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

Brussels, 10 March 1947
16, rue de la Loi

Référence : Charbon.
MS./M. 368.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11 February 1947 addressed to my *Chef de Cabinet*, Mr. F. Vinck, concerning the arrangement relating to the admission into Belgium of displaced persons from the American Occupation Zone of Germany.

¹ See page 24.

The Belgian Government approves the terms of the *procès-verbal* signed at Brussels on 23 January last after the negotiations between its delegates and those of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. The suggested arrangement can therefore enter into force immediately.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Camille HUYSMANS
Prime Minister

His Excellency Admiral Alan Goodrich Kirk
United States Ambassador
Brussels
