

No. 1126

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
FRANCE**

**Understanding constituting an agreement with respect to
the exhibition of American motion pictures in France.
Signed at Washington, on 28 May 1946**

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by the United States of America on 2 April 1951.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
FRANCE**

**Arrangement constituant un accord au sujet de la projec-
tion des films américains en France. Signé à Washing-
ton, le 28 mai 1946**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 2 avril 1951.

No. 1126. UNDERSTANDING CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC WITH RESPECT TO THE EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN MOTION PICTURES IN FRANCE. SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON 28 MAY 1946

The Government of the United States of America and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, in the light of their broad agreement of this date on commercial policy objectives, and with special regard to changes brought about by the war, have reexamined certain problems relating to the exhibition in France of dubbed American motion picture films. As a result of these conversations, the French Government has informed the American Government that it will take the following measures which will be applied in the customs territory of France :

Effective July 1, 1946, all previous provisions concerning the number of dubbed films permitted to be shown in France will be abandoned. On the same date, a " screen quota " system will be instituted, as a temporary protective measure, to assist the French motion picture industry to recover from the disorganization caused by enemy occupation of France. Under this system, motion picture exhibitors in France will be required to exhibit French films for a certain number of weeks per quarter. During the remaining weeks, French exhibitors will be allowed free choice of films, foreign or domestic.

Beginning July 1, 1946, the screen quota reserved for French films will be not more than four (4) weeks per quarter.

The screen quota shall continue at the level of four (4) weeks per quarter unless reduced to three (3) weeks per quarter by the operation of the following automatic formula :

If, in any two-year period ending on June 30, 1948, or on June 30 of any subsequent year, feature films produced in France should obtain total playing time in French theatres equal to or greater than an average of five (5) weeks per quarter, the screen quota shall automatically be reduced to three (3) weeks per quarter effective October 1 following the expiration of such two-year period.

If, through the operation of the above formula, the screen quota should

¹ Came into force on 28 May 1946, by signature.

be reduced to three (3) weeks per quarter, it shall continue at that level unless terminated entirely by the operation of the following automatic formula :

If, in any two-year period ending on September 30, during the whole of which period a screen quota of three (3) weeks per quarter is in effect, feature films produced in France should obtain total playing time in French theatres equal to or greater than an average of five (5) weeks per quarter, the screen quota shall be entirely abolished effective January 1 following the expiration of such two-year period.

The French Government has agreed that, in the period during which the screen quota remains in force, it will impose no restrictions whatever on the importation of American films into France, and no restrictions other than the screen quota on the exhibition of American films in France, except such restrictions as are also applied to French films. If, through the operation of this plan, the screen quota should be entirely abolished, there will be, on and after the effective date of such abolition, no restrictions on the importation of American films into France and no restrictions on the exhibition of American films in France, except such restrictions as are also applied to French films.

The United States Government has noted with satisfaction that the new measures to be taken by the French Government contemplate the complete elimination of protection when the French producing industry has regained its competitive strength.

If, in the opinion of either Government, this plan should, at some future time, be inappropriate to the conditions then prevailing in the French motion picture producing industry or in the French motion picture market, each Government has reserved the right to request the other to undertake negotiations looking toward its modification or termination. If, upon the expiration of six months from the date of such a request, these negotiations shall not have reached a conclusion satisfactory to both Governments, the terms of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement which is then in effect between them shall apply.

DONE at Washington, in duplicate, in the English and French languages, this 28th day of May, 1946.

For the Government of the United States of America :
James F. BYRNES

For the Provisional Government of the French Republic :
Léon BLUM