

No. 1206

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
PANAMA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to
passport visa requirements. Panama, 14 August,
27 October and 5 November 1948**

Official texts: English and Spanish.

Registered by the United States of America on 1 June 1951.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
PANAMA**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux droits
de visa des passeports. Panama, 14 août, 27 octobre
et 5 novembre 1948**

Textes officiels anglais et espagnol.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 1er juin 1951.

No. 1206. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND PANAMA RELATING TO PASSPORT VISA REQUIREMENTS. PANAMA, 14 AUGUST, 27 OCTOBER AND 5 NOVEMBER 1948

I

The American Ambassador to the Panamanian Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Panamá, R. P., August 14, 1948

No. 38

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to the Embassy's Note No. 458 of September 2, 1947,² the Ministry's Note D. P. 2592 of November 12, 1947,² to previous correspondence and to various informal conversations with the Second Secretary of the Ministry, all pertaining to my government's proposal that temporary visitors' visas be issued gratis to citizens of the United States and the Republic of Panamá on a reciprocal basis.

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the United States will on or after the 1st day of November, 1948, grant to Panamanian nationals who qualify as temporary visitors for business or pleasure purposes under the provisions of section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924,³ as amended, gratis non-immigrant passport visas valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States and its possessions during a period of twenty-four (24) months from date of issuance, provided the passports of the bearers remain valid for that period of time, if, on and after the same date, the Government of Panamá will accord a similar courtesy to American citizens in a like category entering Panamá. All other non-immigrant passport visas granted to qualified Panamanian nationals will be without fee and valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States during a period of twelve (12) months, provided the passports of the bearers remain valid for that period of time, if the Government of Panamá will accord a similar courtesy to American citizens in a like category entering Panamá.

¹ Came into force on 5 November 1948, by the exchange of the said notes, and, in accordance with their terms, became operative on 1 January 1949.

² Not printed by the Department of State of the United States of America.

³ United States : 43 Stat. 154.

The period of validity of a visa relates only to the period within which it may be used in connection with an application for admission at a port of entry into the United States and its possessions, and not to the length of stay in the United States which may be permitted the bearer after he is admitted. The period of time an alien may be permitted to stay in the United States is determined by the immigration authorities at the time the alien is admitted.

The fee for an immigration visa to permit an alien to apply for admission into the United States and its possessions with the privilege of residing permanently therein is \$10.00. The amount of this fee is prescribed by the Immigration Act of 1924, and it may not be changed on the basis of a reciprocal arrangement.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Monnett B. DAVIS

His Excellency Ing. Ernesto Jaen Guardia
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Panamá, R. P.

II

The Panamanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

SPANISH TEXT — TEXTE ESPAGNOL

TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²

MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Panamá, 27 de Octubre de 1948

Panamá, October 27, 1948

D. P. 2010

D. P. 2010

Señor Embajador :

Mr. Ambassador :

Tengo a honra referirme a la atenta nota de Vuestra Excelencia N° 38, de 14 de Agosto de este año, acerca de la proposición del ilustrado Gobierno de Vuestra Excelencia para expedición gratuita de visas temporales de visitantes a ciudadanos de la República de Panamá y los Estados Unidos, sobre base de reciprocidad.

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's courteous note No. 38, dated August 14, 1948, regarding the proposal of Your Excellency's Government relative to the issuance of temporary visitor's visas, free of charge, to citizens of the Republic of Panamá and of the United States, on a reciprocal basis.

Me es grato hacer del conocimiento de Vuestra Excelencia que mi Gobierno no está anuente en aceptar la propo-

I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that my Government is willing to accept the proposal formulated

¹ Translation by the Government of the United States of America.

² Traduction du Gouvernement des États-Unis d'Amérique.

sición formulada tendiente a facilitar y fomentar los viajes de recreo y de negocios entre nuestros dos países.

Por lo tanto a partir del primero de Enero de 1949 los Consulados panameños en el exterior expedirán a los nacionales norteamericanos que se califiquen como turistas o transeuntes, dentro de nuestra legislación vigente, visas gratis de turismo o tránsito para fines de recreo o de negocios según el caso, válidas para cualquier número de peticiones de admisión a la República de Panamá durante un periodo de veinticuatro (24) meses a partir de la fecha de expedición, siempre que los pasaportes sean válidos por ese periodo y que a partir de esa fecha el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos otorgue la misma cortesía a los ciudadanos panameños en igual categoría que viajen a los Estados Unidos.

El período de validez de una visa se refiere solamente al período dentro del cual puede ser utilizada en relación con la solicitud de admisión en un puerto de entrada al territorio Nacional y no a la extensión de la permanencia que se permita en la República al portador después de ser admitido en el país. El período de tiempo durante el cual puede permitirse la permanencia de un extranjero en la República es determinado por las autoridades panameñas de inmigración al momento de la admisión del extranjero.

Mi Gobierno desea dejar constancia de que este arreglo en cuanto a visas de turismo o de tránsito no afecta en lo absoluto las disposiciones vigentes o que se dictaren en el futuro en materias de *tarjetas de turismo* ni tiene relación con las visas oficiales, diplomáticas o especiales.

with a view to facilitating and encouraging recreational and business trips to our respective countries.

Therefore, as of January 1, 1949, Panamanian Consulates abroad will issue to United States citizens who qualify as tourists or transients, in accordance with our legislation in force, free tourist or transit visas for recreational or business purposes, as the case may be, valid for any number of applications for entry into the Republic of Panamá during a period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of issuance, provided that the passports are valid for that period and that as of the said date the Government of the United States extends the same courtesy to Panamanian citizens of the same category who travel to the United States.

The period of validity of a visa refers only to the period within which it may be used in relation to the application for entry into a port of entry of the national territory and not to the extension of sojourn which may be granted in the Republic to the bearer after he is admitted into the country. The period during which an alien may stay in the Republic is determined by the Panamanian immigration authorities at the time of the said alien's entry.

My Government wishes to state for the record that this agreement relative to tourist or transit visas in no wise affects provisions which are in force or which may be adopted in the future regarding *tourist cards*, and that it has no bearing on official, diplomatic or special visas.

El presente acuerdo, una vez formalizado con la aceptación definitiva de parte del Gobierno de Vuestra Excelencia, reforma y subroga en todas sus partes cualesquiera otro arreglo o arreglos existentes entre nuestros dos países en relación con visas de turismo y de tránsito a ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y la República de Panamá, a base de reciprocidad.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Ignacio MOLINO Jr.
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores

A Su Excelencia Monnett B. Davis
Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos
Ciudad

After the present agreement has become effective through its definitive acceptance by Your Excellency's Government, it shall amend and supersede completely any other existing agreement or agreements between our two countries concerning tourist or transit visas for citizens of the United States and of the Republic of Panamá, on a reciprocal basis.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Ignacio MOLINO Jr.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Monnett B. Davis
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States
Panamá

III

The American Ambassador to the Panamanian Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Panamá, November 5, 1948

No. 84

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's note No. DP 2010 of October 27, 1948, wherein the Government of Panama accepts the proposal made by my Government as indicated in my Note No. 38 dated August 14, 1948 for the reciprocal extension of the validity of visitors' visas issued to citizens of Panama and the United States. I am pleased to note that, for the purpose of achieving full reciprocity, Your Excellency's acceptance will include the issuance of transit visas to United States citizens to enable them to enter the Republic of Panama for business reasons.

I wish to inform Your Excellency that Note No. DP-2010 under reference has been forwarded to the Department of State in order that appropriate instructions may be issued to American Consular and Diplomatic establishments for the purpose of issuing visitors' visas for business and pleasure under the new agreement on January 1, 1949.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Monnett B. DAVIS

His Excellency Licenciado Ignacio Molino Jr.
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Panamá