

No. 1482

**BELGIUM
and
AUSTRALIA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning
visas. Canberra, 25 July 1951**

Official text: English.

Registered by Belgium on 31 October 1951.

**BELGIQUE
et
AUSTRALIE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux visas.
Canberra, 25 juillet 1951**

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 31 octobre 1951.

No. 1482. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND AUSTRALIA CONCERNING VISAS. CANBERRA, 25 JULY 1951

I

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Canberra, A.C.T., 25th July, 1951

File No. 1522/41/19

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to previous correspondence regarding visas and visa fees, and to inform you that the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia is prepared to conclude with the Government of Belgium, an agreement in the following terms :—

1. Belgian nationals possessing valid Belgian passports, who desire to enter Australia whether temporarily or permanently, and whose entry to Australia has been approved, will receive visas for Australia, free of charge, from the appropriate visa-issuing authority; such visas, in the case of Belgian nationals proceeding to Australia for purposes other than permanent residence, will be made valid for a period of twelve months and good for an unlimited number of journeys to Australia within that period.

2. Australian citizens, possessing valid Australian passports, who desire to enter Belgium as bona-fide non-immigrants may enter Belgium for periods of less than two months without obtaining a visa.

3. The present agreement shall take effect one month from the date hereof.

4. Either of the parties may denounce the present agreement by means of giving one month's notice to the other party.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is understood :—

(a) that the abovementioned provisions do not exempt Australian citizens from the necessity of obtaining visas for Belgian Congo or Ruanda-Urundi, whether entering in transit or otherwise;

¹ Came into force on 25 August 1951, in accordance with the terms of the said notes.

- (b) that the abovementioned provisions do not exempt Belgian nationals entering Australia, and Australian citizens entering Belgium from the necessity of complying with the Australian and Belgian Laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence whether temporary or permanent, and employment of aliens; and
- (c) that travellers who are unable to satisfy the respective immigration authorities that they comply with the laws and regulations referred to in the immediately preceding sub-paragraph are liable to be refused permission to enter or land.

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to your Government, I have the honour to suggest that the present Note, and your confirmatory reply thereto be deemed to constitute and evidence the agreement reached between our two Governments.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) R. G. CASEY
Minister of State for External Affairs

His Excellency M. Félix F. A. Jansen
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Belgium
11c Castlereagh Street
Sydney, N.S.W.

II

BELGIAN LEGATION

Canberra, 25th July, 1951

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of today's date regarding visas and visa fees in which you inform me that the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia is prepared to conclude an Agreement with the Government of Belgium in the following terms :

[See note I]

I am authorised by the Belgian Government to state that the Belgian Government agrees to the foregoing provisions and to the suggestion that your Note and this reply should be regarded as constituting and evidencing the Agreement reached between our two Governments.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) Félix JANSEN
Minister of Belgium

The Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.
Minister of External Affairs
Canberra, A.C.T.