

No. 2859

---

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to  
passport visa fees. Bonn, 12 and 30 December 1952 and  
9 January 1953**

*Official texts: English and German.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 1 July 1955.*

---

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux droits  
de visa des passeports. Bonn, 12 et 30 décembre 1952  
et 9 janvier 1953**

*Textes officiels anglais et allemand.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1955.*

No. 2859. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY RELATING TO PASSPORT VISA FEES. BONN, 12 AND 30 DECEMBER 1952 AND 9 JANUARY 1953

---

I

*The Office of the United States High Commissioner to the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany*

UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

The Office of the United States High Commissioner presents its compliments to the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and has the honor to transmit the following message.

The Government of the United States understands that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to conclude an agreement for the abolition of visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens proceeding to Germany who desire to remain therein for a temporary period of time. The Government of the United States is appreciative of the proposed action on the part of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, but because of the provisions of Section 212 (a) (26) (B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act,<sup>2</sup> which require that each alien applying for admission as a nonimmigrant, except in certain specified cases set forth in Section 212 (d) (4) of the Act, be in possession of a valid nonimmigrant visa or a border crossing identification card, the Government of the United States is unable to accord identical courtesies to German citizens who desire to proceed to the United States and apply for admission as nonimmigrants. The Government of the United States will, however, grant passport visas without fee which may be valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States within a maximum period of twelve months from the date of issuance to eligible German citizens who are *bona fide* nonimmigrants within the meaning of the Act, and who seek to enter the United States and its possessions as nonimmigrants, provided the German passport or the Combined Travel Board travel document of the bearer remains valid during the period of validity of the visa. In the cases of such German citizens who are classified under Section 101 (a) (15) (B), (C), (D), and (E), of the Act, the visas may be valid for any number of applications for admission within a period of twenty-four months from date of issuance. It is

---

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 February 1953, in accordance with the terms of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> United States of America : Public Law 414; 66 Stat. 184.

understood that the aforementioned Combined Travel Board travel document entitles the bearer to enter Germany.

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 each stay will, as at present, continue to be determined by the Immigration authorities.

The fees for the furnishing and verification of an application for an immigrant visa and the issuance of such visa to permit an alien to apply for admission into the United States and its possessions with the privilege of residing permanently therein, are \$25. 00; this amount is prescribed by Section 281 (1) and (2) of the Act and may not be changed on the basis of an executive agreement.

The Immigration and Nationality Act contains no provision for the collection of head tax or other taxes at ports of entry into the United States.

*Enclosure:*

Extracts of the Immigration and Nationality Act.<sup>1</sup>

H. J. L.

Mehlemer Aue, Bad Godesberg

December 12, 1952

## II

*The Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United States High Commissioner*

[GERMAN TEXT — TEXTE ALLEMAND]

AUSWÄRTIGES AMT

524-10/80 adh. I V 66 188/52

Das Auswärtige Amt beehrt sich, den Empfang des Schreibens des Amtes des Hohen Kommissars der Vereinigten Staaten vom 12. Dezember 1952 zu bestätigen. Hiernach wird folgende Vereinbarung getroffen :

I. Deutsche, die als bona fide Nicht-Einwanderer nach den Vereinigten Staaten und deren Besitzungen reisen wollen und im Besitz gültiger deutscher Reisepässe oder von Reiseausweisen für Deutsche sind, welche von der Bundesregierung als gültig anerkannt sind, erhalten gebührenfreie Sichtvermerke für eine unbeschränkte Zahl von Einreisen. Die Gültigkeitsdauer dieser Sichtvermerke beträgt

<sup>1</sup> Not printed by the Department of State of the United States of America.

or travel permits for Germans which are recognized as valid by the Federal Government, may be granted without fee passport visas which shall be valid for an unlimited number of applications for admission. The period of validity of these passport visas shall be

1. 12 months

- a) For German diplomatic and consular officials and other government officials, as well as for members of their households,
- b) For German students and persons undergoing technical training,
- c) For German representatives of the press, radio, film, and other information media, who come to the United States solely for the purpose of engaging in such vocation, as well as for their wives and children;

2. 24 months

- a) For German nationals who are in immediate transit through the United States, or who are temporarily visiting there, for business or pleasure,
- b) For German seamen and employees of airline companies,
- c) For German nationals who engage in commercial transactions between the United States and Germany, or who direct or develop an enterprise in which they have invested a substantial amount of capital or in which they wish to invest a substantial amount.

II. United States citizens who come to the Federal Republic as *bona fide* nonimmigrants in possession of valid passports of their country may enter the Federal Republic without a passport visa.

III. However, the provisions applicable to aliens in the Federal Republic and in the United States in regard to admission, temporary or permanent stay, and the employment of foreigners shall not be affected by the present regulation.

IV. This Agreement shall enter into force on February 1, 1953.

Bonn, December 30, 1952

[SEAL]

III

*The Office of the United States High Commissioner to the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany*

UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

The Office of the United States High Commissioner presents its compliments to the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and, with reference to the exchange of an American Note of December 12, 1952 and a German Note of December 30, 1952 regarding the willingness of the Gov-

ernment of the Federal Republic of Germany to abolish the visa requirement for American citizens in return for the abolition, on the part of the Government of the United States of America, of the visa fee for German nationals, has the honor to state that the Government of the United States of America agrees to the coming into force of this arrangement, as per the terms contained in the reference Notes, on February 1, 1953.

H. J. L.

Mehlemer Aue, Bad Godesberg

January 9, 1953