

No. 3039

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
BULGARIA**

**Agreement relating to the settlement of financial matters.
Signed at London, on 22 September 1955**

Official texts: English and Bulgarian.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
12 December 1955.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
BULGARIE**

**Accord concernant le règlement de questions financières.
Signé à Londres, le 22 septembre 1955**

Textes officiels anglais et bulgare.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
12 décembre 1955.*

No. 3039. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1955

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as the United Kingdom Government) and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as the Bulgarian Government) have agreed as follows:—

Article 1

The Bulgarian Government shall pay to the United Kingdom Government the sum of £400,000 (four hundred thousand pounds sterling) in full and final settlement of the following:—

- (a) all sums due to the United Kingdom Government or to British nationals from the Bulgarian Government or from Bulgarian nationals in respect of:—
 - (i) commercial and banking transactions and shipping and transport services, where the obligation arose on or before 28th October, 1944, and the sum was due and payable prior to 15th September, 1947;
 - (ii) balances held at banks in Bulgaria at 15th September, 1947;
 - (iii) claims of British nationals arising out of contracts of insurance and reinsurance concluded with Bulgarian nationals on or before 28th October, 1944;
- (b) all obligations of the Bulgarian Government and of Bulgarian nationals to the United Kingdom Government and British nationals arising out of Article 23 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria signed in Paris on 10th February, 1947 (hereinafter referred to as the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria);²
- (c) personal prejudice claims presented to the Bulgarian Government by the United Kingdom Government before the date of the signature of the present Agreement;

¹ Came into force on 22 September 1955, the date of signature, in accordance with article 9.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 41, p. 21.

- (d) all claims (whether presented or not at the date of signature of the present Agreement) in respect of British property, rights and interests affected, directly or indirectly, prior to the date of the present Agreement by Bulgarian measures of nationalisation, expropriation and other similar measures arising out of structural changes in the Bulgarian economy, which came into force before the date of the present Agreement.

Article 2

(1) Payment of the sum mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement shall be made by instalments to be paid to the United Kingdom Government by the Bulgarian Government on 31st March in each year, beginning on 31st March, 1956. The amount of these instalments shall be 5 per cent of the sterling proceeds, based on the f.o.b. value, of imports into the United Kingdom from Bulgaria in the twelve months ending on 31st December preceding the date of payment.

(2) The United Kingdom Government and the Bulgarian Government agree that for this purpose the f.o.b. value in sterling of imports into the United Kingdom from Bulgaria shall be taken to be that recorded in the published accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom less a deduction of 10 per cent. The United Kingdom Government undertake to inform the Bulgarian Government of that value on or before 28th February of each year.

Article 3

For the purposes of the present Agreement:—

- (1) “ British nationals ” shall mean:—

- (i) physical persons who at the date of the signature of the present Agreement are citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies, or British-protected persons belonging to any of the territories for whose international relations the United Kingdom Government are responsible; and
- (ii) companies, firms and associations incorporated or constituted under the laws in force in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or in any territory for whose international relations the United Kingdom Government are, at the date of the present Agreement, responsible;

provided that:

the persons, companies, firms and associations concerned were equally British nationals in accordance with the foregoing definition at the date

at which the claim arose or, in the case of claims arising under Article 23 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria, on 15th September, 1947;

- (iii) heirs and legal representatives of deceased physical persons who were British nationals in accordance with the foregoing definition both at the date at which their claim arose and at the date of death.

(2) "Bulgarian nationals" shall mean:—

- (i) physical persons possessing Bulgarian citizenship;
- (ii) those juridical persons, companies, firms, associations and the like, concerned with the claims, debts and obligations mentioned in Articles 1 and 5 of the present Agreement.

Article 4

(1) The expression "British property" in sub-paragraph (d) of Article I shall mean:—

all property, rights and interests affected by the various Bulgarian measures which on the date of the relevant law, decree or other measure were owned directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, and whether legally or beneficially, by British nationals, to the extent to which they were so owned.

(2) In relation to claims in respect of measures of nationalisation, expropriation and other similar measures, the date on which the claim arose shall be deemed to be the date on which the relevant law, decree or other measure was published or notified.

Article 5

(1) The United Kingdom Government hereby declare on their own behalf and on behalf of British nationals that payment by the Bulgarian Government of the sum of £400,000 mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement fully and finally discharges the Bulgarian Government and Bulgarian nationals from all liability to the United Kingdom Government and British nationals in respect of all the debts, claims and obligations mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement.

(2) The Bulgarian Government hereby declare that the sum of £400,000 mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement has been arrived at after taking into account:—

- (i) all liabilities in Bulgaria of British nationals in connection with the debts, claims and obligations mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement;

- (ii) the claims of the Bulgarian Government arising out of Article 20 of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria;
- (iii) claims of Bulgarian nationals arising out of contracts of insurance and reinsurance concluded with British nationals on or before 28th October, 1944;

and that all such liabilities and claims are thus fully and finally discharged as from the date of the present Agreement.

(3) The United Kingdom Government and the Bulgarian Government agree that neither Government shall present to the other, on its behalf or on behalf of any person, whether included in the definition of British nationals or Bulgarian nationals or not, any claim which relates to any of the debts, obligations and claims mentioned in Article 1 of the present Agreement, or to any of the liabilities or claims mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this Article; nor will either Government support any such claims.

Article 6

The provisions of the present Agreement in so far as they relate or refer to contracts of insurance and reinsurance, are hereby deemed to constitute an agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the Bulgarian Government within the meaning of paragraph 4 of Annex V A of the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria.

Article 7

(1) The United Kingdom Government shall obtain all documents of title which are available relating to the claims of British nationals under Article 1 of the present Agreement.

(2) If such documents relating to any claims are not available (as, for example, if such documents of title have not been executed or if, in the case of a claim under sub-paragraph (d) of Article 1 of the present Agreement, the documents also related to property, rights or interests unaffected by any of the various Bulgarian measures), the United Kingdom Government shall obtain a document signed by the British national to whom the payment is to be made, or by the person who made the claim, surrendering all claims by him to which the payment relates.

(3) The United Kingdom Government shall retain custody of the documents obtained in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article and shall deliver to the Bulgarian Government such documents relating to each claim as soon as the final payment under Article 1 of the present Agreement shall have been made by the Bulgarian Government.

(4) The United Kingdom Government shall submit to the Bulgarian Government not later than 30th September, 1958, particulars concerning documents obtained in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article.

Article 8

The Contracting Governments shall co-operate in all matters affecting the operation of the present Agreement and to that end, at the request of the United Kingdom Government, the Bulgarian Government shall furnish as soon as possible such details of title and of value as are held by the appropriate Bulgarian authorities to enable the United Kingdom Government to determine any claims of British nationals. The Bulgarian Government shall also, at the request of the United Kingdom Government, supply copies of each Bulgarian law, decree, or other measure applied to particular properties in relation to any claim covered by the provisions of sub-paragraphs (b) and (d) of Article 1 of the present Agreement.

Article 9

The present Agreement shall come into force on the date of signature thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement and affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in duplicate at London this twenty-second day of September, nineteen hundred and fifty-five in the English and Bulgarian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:
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[L.S.] READING

[L.S.] Ivan POPOV