

No. 2733

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**SWEDEN**  
and  
**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement concerning co-operation for the saving of lives  
in the Baltic Sea. Signed at Moscow, on 29 September  
1954**

*Official texts: Swedish and Russian.*

*Registered by Sweden on 5 January 1955.*

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**SUÈDE**  
et  
**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif à la coopération pour le sauvetage des vies  
humaines dans la Baltique. Signé à Moscou, le 29 sep-  
tembre 1954**

*Textes officiels suédois et russe.*

*Enregistré par la Suède le 5 janvier 1955.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 2733. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN SWEDEN AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING CO-OPERATION FOR THE SAVING OF LIVES IN THE BALTIC SEA. SIGNED AT MOSCOW, ON 29 SEPTEMBER 1954

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The Government of Sweden and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with a view to establishing favourable conditions for the provision of quick and effective assistance in the Baltic Sea to crews and passengers of vessels and aircraft, regardless of their nationality, in distress at sea,

Have reached agreement on co-operation as follows :

*Article 1*

Assistance and rescue operations in the Baltic Sea for the benefit of crews and passengers of vessels and aircraft shall be carried out by the sea rescue services of Sweden and of the Soviet Union with the personnel and rescue equipment at their disposal.

If the sea rescue service of either State receives information that a vessel or aircraft is in distress in the Baltic Sea, it shall be the duty of that service to take such steps for rendering assistance to the crew and passengers as are considered most appropriate. If the place of the disaster is situated nearer to the coast of the other State or if for any other reason it appears necessary to do so, the sea rescue service receiving news of the disaster shall get into touch with the sea rescue service of the other State and the rescue operations shall be planned in consultation between the two sea rescue services. Such consultation shall invariably take place whenever the sea rescue service of one State is informed that a vessel or aircraft belonging to the other State is in distress.

Rescue operations in the territorial waters of Sweden or of the Soviet Union shall be carried out in accordance with the law of the State concerned.

*Article 2*

The sea rescue services of both States shall receive distress signals on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second (600 metres) in accordance with the international rules for the transmitting and receiving of distress signals.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 January 1955 in accordance with article 6.

Radio communication between the sea rescue service of Sweden and the sea rescue service of the Soviet Union shall be established by a signal transmitted on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second and shall subsequently be continued, as regards Sweden, on a transmitting frequency of 416 kilocycles per second and, as regards the Soviet Union, on a transmitting frequency of 2835 kilocycles per second.

For the purposes of this Agreement the call signal of the Swedish sea rescue service shall be SDJ; and the call signal of the Soviet Union sea rescue service shall be UMQ.

### Article 3

The sea rescue service which first dispatches personnel and rescue equipment to render assistance or which first institutes rescue operations may, if necessary for carrying out the rescue, call upon the other sea rescue service for aid as provided in article 2.

The sea rescue service receiving such a call shall dispatch all available personnel and rescue equipment to the position given.

In conducting rescue operations, vessels belonging to the sea rescue services of each State shall communicate by radio with each other and with the vessel or aircraft in distress either over station SDJ or UMQ respectively or, if possible, directly on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second (600 metres) or 2182 kilocycles per second (137.5 metres).

Radio communication shall be carried on according to the International Code of Signals or, if possible, in plain language in English.

### Article 4

The parties undertake to provide their rescue ships and the organs concerned with detailed instructions for complying with the provisions of this Agreement.

### Article 5

The provisions of this Agreement shall not supersede the International Convention for the unification of certain rules of law respecting assistance and salvage at sea, signed at Brussels on 23 September 1910,<sup>1</sup> or the International Convention for the safety of life at sea, signed in London on 10 June 1948.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> De Martens : *Nouveau Recueil général de Traités*, troisième série, tome VII, p. 728 and League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CCV, p. 220.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 164, p. 113; Vol. 167, p. 338; Vol. 172, p. 409; Vol. 173, p. 416; Vol. 175, p. 374; Vol. 183, p. 372; Vol. 187, p. 464; Vol. 191, p. 406; Vol. 193, p. 361; Vol. 198, p. 404, and Vol. 200, p. 333.

*Article 6*

This Agreement shall be valid for a period of three years and shall come into force on 1 January 1955. Unless it is denounced by either Party not later than six months before the expiry of the period of validity, the Agreement shall remain in force for an additional period of one year and shall thenceforth be considered to be extended for successive periods of one year unless it is denounced by either Party at least six months before the end of a calendar year.

DONE at Moscow on 29 September 1954 in duplicate in the Swedish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of  
Sweden :  
(Signed) ROLF SOHLMAN  
(L.S.)

For the Government of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
(Signed) A. A. FROLOV  
(L.S.)