

No. 3534

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
SWITZERLAND and LIECHTENSTEIN**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to
passport visa fees. Washington, 22 and 31 October,
and 4 and 13 November 1947**

Official text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 26 September 1956.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
SUISSE et LIECHTENSTEIN**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux droits
de visa des passeports. Washington, 22 et 31 octobre,
et 4 et 13 novembre 1947**

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 26 septembre 1956.

No. 3534. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND SWITZERLAND AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN RELATING TO PASSPORT VISA FEES. WASHINGTON, 22 AND 31 OCTOBER, AND 4 AND 13 NOVEMBER 1947

I

The Secretary of State to the Swiss Minister

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Minister of Switzerland and has the honor to refer to discussions had between a member of the staff of the Department of State and of the Legation of Switzerland concerning the question of nonimmigrant passport visa requirements for American citizens and for Swiss nationals.

A reciprocal nonimmigrant passport visa arrangement was concluded, effective June 1, 1925,² between the Government of the United States and the Government of Switzerland, the latter Government also acting as the duly empowered representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein, whereby visa requirements were waived for American citizens entering Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, and the fees for nonimmigrant passport visas and applications therefor were waived for Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein granted passport visas with which to apply for admission into the United States and its possessions as nonimmigrants.

The Government of Switzerland, on September 5, 1939, informed the Government of the United States that on and after that date American citizens entering Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein would be required to be in possession of valid visas given only upon a special authorization by the Federal Department of Justice and Police in Bern; the Government of the United States being subsequently informed that no fees were to be charged American citizens for the visaing of their American passports.

The Government of the United States understands that the Government of Switzerland will consider the question of waiving visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens proceeding to Switzerland who desire to remain therein for a temporary period of time.

¹ Came into force on 13 November 1947 by the exchange of the said notes.

² The following information is given by the Department of State of the United States of America (*Treaties and Other International Acts Series 3172*, p. 1, footnote 1): "Effected by exchange of notes signed May 11, 1925. Not printed."

Should the Government of Switzerland decide to waive visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for American citizens proceeding to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Government of the United States would be unable to accord identical courtesies to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein proceeding to the United States and its possessions because of the provisions of Section 30, Alien Registration Act of 1940, approved June 28, 1940 (54 Stat. 673), which require that each alien entering the United States, except in emergency cases, be in possession of a valid visa or other valid permit to enter. However, the Government of the United States will consider the question of granting passport visas without fees and valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States within a period of 24 months from date of issuance, instead of the present 12 months' period of validity of such visas, to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein who are proceeding to the United States and its possessions for business or pleasure purposes, and who are *bona fide* nonimmigrants within the meaning of the immigration laws of the United States, provided the passport of the bearer remains valid during the period of validity of the visa. All other classes of nonimmigrant passport visas granted Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein will continue to be valid, as at present, for a period of 12 months, provided the passport of the bearer remains valid for that period of time.

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 would, as at present, continue to be determined by the immigration authorities.

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.

H. J. L.

Department of State
Washington, October 22, 1947

II

*The Swiss Minister to the Secretary of State*LÉGATION DE SUISSE¹

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 31, 1947

Sir :

I have the honor to refer to your note of October 22, 1947, relative to the question of nonimmigrant passport visa requirements for United States citizens and for Swiss nationals.

In this note Department of State offered to grant passport visas without fees and valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States within a period of twenty-four months from date of issuance to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein who are proceeding to the United States and its possessions for business or pleasure purposes and who are bona fide nonimmigrants within the meaning of the immigration laws of the United States, provided the passport of the bearer remains valid during the period of validity of the visa, if the Government of Switzerland should be willing to waive visa requirements, but not passport requirements, for United States citizens proceeding to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

This question was submitted to the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police, and I have the honor to inform you that the Government of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein have decided to waive visa requirements, but not passport requirements, as from December 1, 1947, for United States citizens who are proceeding to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein for business or pleasure purposes, but not for United States citizens who intend to take permanent residence and employment there.

I would appreciate receiving confirmation that as from December 1, 1947, the Government of the United States will grant passport visas to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein, as stated in the Department's note of October 22, 1947, under reference.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

BRUGGMANN

The Honorable George C. Marshall
Secretary of State

¹ Legation of Switzerland.

III

*The Swiss Minister to the Secretary of State*LÉGATION DE SUISSE¹

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 4, 1947

Sir :

I refer to my note of October 31, 1947, in which I had the honor to inform you of the decision of the Governments of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein to waive visa requirements, but not passport requirements, as from December 1, 1947, for United States citizens who are proceeding to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein for business or pleasure purposes, but not for United States citizens who intend to take permanent residence and employment there. A copy of the note under reference is attached² for convenience.

The decision of the Governments of Switzerland and Liechtenstein had originally been intended to become effective on November 15, 1947. However, it was understood that the Government of the United States would not be able to instruct all its representatives by that date on the question of the granting of passport visas without fees to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein, as offered in the Department of State's note of October 22, 1947. I, therefore, thought it advisable to recommend that the date be set for December 1, 1947, and I reported accordingly to the competent Swiss authorities.

In a communication just received from the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police I am informed that the decision to waive visa requirements is due to come into effect on November 15, 1947, by agreements concluded between Switzerland and several countries. The Swiss Government wishes to maintain that date for all countries, including the United States. I would therefore request that the date indicated in my note of October 31, 1947, be changed from December 1, 1947, to November 15, 1947.

The Swiss authorities are aware of the difficulty which the dispatching of the necessary instructions to American representatives on such short notice will entail for the Department of State. Therefore, the Governments of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein are agreeable to the facilities offered by the United States Government coming into effect only on December 1, 1947.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

BRUGGMANN

The Honorable George C. Marshall
Secretary of State

¹ Legation of Switzerland.

² See note II, p. 84 de ce volume.

IV

The Secretary of State to the Swiss Minister

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Minister of Switzerland and refers to his note of November 4, 1947, wherein it is stated that the Governments of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein have decided to waive visa requirements, but not passport requirements, as from November 15, 1947, for American citizens who are proceeding to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein for business or pleasure purposes, but not for American citizens who intend to reside permanently or to take employment therein.

In the light of the action taken by the Governments of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Government of the United States has instructed all appropriate American diplomatic and consular officers that on and after December 1, 1947, passport visas will be granted without fees and valid for any number of applications for admission into the United States within a period of 24 months from date of issuance, to Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein who are proceeding to the United States and its possessions for business or pleasure purposes, and who are *bona fide* nonimmigrants within the meaning of the immigration laws of the United States, provided the passport of the bearer remains valid during the period of validity of the visa. All other classes of nonimmigrant passport visas granted Swiss nationals and subjects of the Principality of Liechtenstein will continue to be valid, as at present, for a period of 12 months, provided the passport of the bearer remains valid for that period of time.

H. J. L.

Department of State
Washington, November 13, 1947