

No. 3644

NORWAY
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Agreement (with exchange of notes) concerning co-operation in rescuing persons in distress and in searching for missing persons in the Barents Sea. Signed at Oslo, on 19 October 1956

Official texts: Norwegian and Russian.

Registered by Norway on 1 January 1957.

NORVÈGE
et
**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

Accord (avec échange de notes) relatif à la coopération pour le sauvetage des personnes en détresse et la recherche des personnes disparues dans la mer de Barents. Signé à Oslo, le 19 octobre 1956

Textes officiels norvégien et russe.

Enregistré par la Norvège le 1^{er} janvier 1957.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3644. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN RESCUING PERSONS IN DISTRESS AND IN SEARCHING FOR MISSING PERSONS IN THE BARENTS SEA. SIGNED AT OSLO, ON 19 OCTOBER 1956

The Government of Norway and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with a view to promoting co-operation in rescuing persons in distress and in searching for missing persons in the Barents Sea, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The rescue service of Norway and the rescue service of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter referred to as " the Soviet Union ", shall assist by all such means as they consider appropriate in each particular case in rescuing persons in distress and in searching for missing persons in the Barents Sea regardless of the nationality of such persons.

Article 2

If the rescue service of either country receives information that a person is in distress or missing in the area referred to in article 1, it shall forthwith take such steps for organizing and carrying out search or rescue operations as are considered most appropriate.

The rescue service receiving such information may, if in its opinion the provision of the necessary assistance with the least possible delay so requires, get into touch forthwith with the rescue service of the other country in order that the rescue or search operation may be planned in consultation between them and may, according to the circumstances, be carried out by the rescue services of both countries or by the rescue service of the other country.

Where the rescue service of one country has already initiated a rescue or search operation, it may call upon the rescue service of the other country for aid if it considers this necessary to enable the operation to be carried out.

In the cases referred to in the second and third paragraphs, the rescue services of both countries shall render one another assistance to the extent of the appropriate rescue equipment at their disposal.

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1957, in accordance with article 8.

Article 3

Rescue and search operations in Norwegian and Soviet territorial waters shall be carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country concerned.

Article 4

If the rescue service of one country receives information that a person from a vessel or aircraft belonging to the other country is in distress or missing, it shall notify the other country's rescue service as quickly as possible.

The rescue service of the one country shall, at the request of the rescue service of the other country, assist in obtaining information concerning vessels, aircraft and persons missing in the Barents Sea.

Article 5

The rescue services of both countries shall receive distress signals on the frequencies of 500 kilocycles per second (600 metres) and 2,182 kilocycles per second (137.5 metres) in accordance with the international rules in force for the transmission and reception of distress signals.

The radio station at Vardö ("Vardö Radio"), with the call signal "LGV", shall be used in Norway, and the radio station at Murmansk, with the call signal "UDT", shall be used in the Soviet Union, for radio communication between the rescue services of the two countries.

Radio communication between the rescue services of the two countries shall be established by a signal transmitted on the frequency of 500 kilocycles per second and shall subsequently be continued, as regards radio station "LGV", on a working frequency of 522 kilocycles per second and, as regards radio station "UDT", on a working frequency of 432 kilocycles per second.

When vessels of the rescue services of both countries are taking part in the same rescue or search operation, they may maintain radio communication with each other and with the vessel or aircraft in distress either over the aforesaid radio stations or, if possible, directly on the frequency of 500 or of 2,182 kilocycles per second.

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

Article 6

The Parties undertake to provide their rescue services with the necessary instructions for complying with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 7

Nothing in this Agreement shall conflict with the provisions of the International Convention for the unification of certain rules of law respecting assistance and salvage at sea, signed at Brussels on 23 September 1910¹ or the International Convention for the safety of life at sea, signed in London on 10 June 1948.²

Article 8

This Agreement is concluded for a period of three years and shall come into force on 1 January 1957. Unless the Agreement is denounced by either Party not later than six months before the expiry of the said period of validity, it 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 expiry of the current period of validity.

DONE at Oslo on 19 October 1956 in duplicate in the Norwegian and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of Norway :

Halvard LANGE

For the Government
of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics :

M. GRIBANOV

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

I

Oslo, 19 October 1956

Sir,

In connexion with the signing this day of an Agreement between the Government of Norway and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning co-operation in rescuing persons in distress and in searching for missing persons in the Barents sea,³ I have the honour to state on behalf of the

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

² 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; Vol. 200, p. 326; Vol. 202, p. 339; Vol. 210, p. 335; Vol. 212, p. 351; Vol. 218, p. 390; Vol. 230, p. 438; Vol. 250, Vol. 252 and Vol. 253.

³ See p. 12 of this volume.

Norwegian Government that the Norwegian rescue service, at the request of the Soviet rescue service, will likewise render assistance to the extent of the appropriate means of assistance at its disposal should the crew or passengers of any vessel belonging to the Soviet Union be in distress or missing in the Norwegian Sea.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Halvard LANGE

His Excellency Mr. M. G. Gribanov
Ambassador of the Soviet Union
etc., etc., etc.

II

Oslo, 19 October 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of today's date which reads as follows :

[See note I]

I have the honour to be, etc.

M. GRIBANOV

His Excellency Mr. Halvard Lange
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway