

No. 3673

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement concerning co-operation for the saving of
human lives in the Baltic Sea. Signed at Helsinki,
on 7 December 1956**

Official texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 24 January 1957.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif à la coopération pour le sauvetage des vies
humaines dans la mer Baltique. Signé à Helsinki, le
7 décembre 1956**

Textes officiels finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 24 janvier 1957.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 3673. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING CO-OPERATION FOR THE SAVING OF HUMAN LIVES IN THE BALTIC SEA. SIGNED AT HELSINKI, ON 7 DECEMBER 1956

The Government of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with a view to establishing co-operation and creating favourable conditions for the rescue of the passengers and crews of vessels and aircraft in distress in the Baltic Sea, including the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, irrespective of the nationality of such vessels and aircraft,

Have reached agreement on co-operation as follows :

Article 1

The sea rescue services of Finland and the USSR shall use the personnel and equipment at their disposal for rescuing the passengers and crews of vessels and aircraft in distress in the Baltic Sea, including the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia.

If the sea rescue service of either Contracting Party receives information that a vessel or aircraft is in distress at sea, it shall be the duty of that service to take such steps for rendering assistance as are considered most appropriate. If the place of the disaster is situated nearer to the coast of the other Contracting Party 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 Contracting Party, and the rescue operations shall in such case be organized as agreed upon between them.

This procedure shall invariably be followed whenever the sea rescue service of one Contracting Party is informed that a vessel or aircraft belonging to the other Contracting Party is in distress.

Rescue operations in the territorial waters of Finland or of the USSR shall be carried out in accordance with the law of the country concerned.

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1957, in accordance with article 9.

Article 2

Distress signals shall be received by the radio stations of the Contracting Parties on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second (600 metres) in accordance with international rules for the transmitting and receiving of distress signals.

Radio communications between the sea rescue services shall be established through radio station OHC (Helsinki) in the case of the sea rescue service of Finland and through radio station UMQ (Kaliningrad) in the case of the sea rescue service of the USSR.

Radio communications between the sea rescue services shall be established on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second and shall subsequently be continued, as regards OHC, on a transmitting frequency of 438 kilocycles per second and, as regards UMQ, on a transmitting frequency of 441 kilocycles per second.

Article 3

In individual cases, the Swedish radio station SDJ (Stavsnäs Radio) may be used for radio communications between the sea rescue services of the Contracting Parties. The two Contracting Parties shall in this connexion seek the consent of the Government of Sweden so that such communication may be organized.

Article 4

In conducting rescue operations, vessels of the sea rescue services shall communicate by radio with each other and with the vessel or aircraft in distress over station OHC or UMQ, as the case may be, or, if possible, directly on a frequency of 500 kilocycles per second or 2,182 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 5

The sea rescue service which first dispatches its rescue equipment to render assistance or which first institutes rescue operations may, if necessary for the saving of human life, call upon the sea rescue service of the other Contracting Party to render joint assistance.

The sea rescue service receiving such a call shall do its utmost to dispatch the requested rescue equipment to the position given.

The sea rescue service receiving the call shall in all cases communicate its decision as soon as possible.

Article 6

At the request of the sea rescue service of one Contracting Party, the sea rescue service of the other Contracting Party shall render assistance in searching for vessels and aircraft lost without trace in the area to which this Agreement applies.

Article 7

Each Contracting Party undertakes to give its sea rescue service and other appropriate agencies detailed instructions for complying with the provisions of this Agreement.

Article 8

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 1910,¹ or the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, signed in London on 10 June 1948.²

Article 9

This Agreement shall be valid for a period of three years and shall come into force on 1 January 1957. Unless it is denounced by either Contracting Party not later than six months before the expiry of the period of validity, the Agreement shall remain in force until such time as it is denounced by either Contracting Party at least six months before the end of the current calendar year.

DONE at Helsinki on 7 December 1956, in duplicate in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of Finland :

Osmo ORKOMIES

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

A. FROLOV

¹ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. CIII, p. 441 ; 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.