

No. 4075

**POLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement on the time limits and procedure of further
repatriation from the USSR of persons of Polish
nationality. Signed at Moscow, on 25 March 1957**

Official texts: Polish and Russian.

Registered by Poland on 18 November 1957.

**POLOGNE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif aux délais et modalités selon lesquels se
poursuivra le rapatriement des personnes de nationalité
polonaise se trouvant en URSS. Signé à Moscou,
le 25 mars 1957**

Textes officiels polonais et russe.

Enregistré par la Pologne le 18 novembre 1957.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 4075. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE TIME LIMITS AND PROCEDURE OF FURTHER REPATRIATION FROM THE USSR OF PERSONS OF POLISH NATIONALITY. SIGNED AT MOSCOW, ON 25 MARCH 1957

The Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Noting that the majority of persons of Polish nationality who have expressed the desire to be repatriated have proceeded to Poland from the USSR in accordance with earlier Polish-Soviet agreements,

Considering, however, that some persons of Polish nationality did not avail themselves at the time of the right to be repatriated, and

Desiring to strengthen further Polish-Soviet friendship,

Have decided, in accordance with the Joint Polish-Soviet Statement signed at Moscow on 18 November 1956, to conclude this Agreement and to this end have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Government of the Polish People's Republic :

Wladyslaw Wicha, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Polish People's Republic,

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

Nikolai Pavlovich Dudorov, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The following shall have the right to repatriation :

- (a) Persons of Polish nationality who possessed Polish citizenship on 17 September 1939;
- (b) Persons who were born after 17 September 1939 and have no close relatives in the Soviet Union but have relatives in the Polish People's Republic, or

¹ Came into force on 10 July 1957, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Warsaw, in accordance with article 17.

whose repatriation has been requested by the Polish authorities, provided that their parents were of Polish nationality and possessed Polish citizenship on 17 September 1939.

Article 2

Persons serving in the Soviet Army who have the right to repatriation and wish to avail themselves thereof shall be demobilized and repatriated.

Article 3

Persons held in places of detention who have the right to repatriation and wish to avail themselves thereof shall be released prior to the expiry of their sentences and shall be repatriated or delivered to the Polish authorities.

Article 4

The Soviet Union shall allow the husband or wife and the children and parents of the person to be repatriated who form part of his household to proceed to the Polish People's Republic even if such member of his family did not possess Polish citizenship on 17 September 1939 and are not persons of Polish nationality.

The Polish People's Republic shall extend the privileges enjoyed by repatriates who acquire Polish citizenship to the members of their families who retain USSR citizenship upon arrival in the Polish People's Republic.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties have agreed to continue the repatriation of persons entitled thereto under this Agreement and also the practice of permitting the departure of the persons referred to in article 4 above, subject to the principle of voluntary choice.

Article 6

Persons wishing to be repatriated in accordance with this Agreement shall submit applications for repatriation to the militia authorities in the area where they reside together with documentary proof that they are of Polish nationality and are former Polish citizens.

If necessary, the competent organs of the Contracting Parties shall assist persons wishing to be repatriated in establishing the circumstances entitling them to repatriation.

Questions relating to the repatriation of persons who cannot prove their right to repatriation shall be examined by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics together with the Representative for Repatriation Affairs of the Government of the Polish People's Republic at the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic at Moscow.

Article 7

Repatriation shall be effected in each individual case on the basis of a special certificate issued by the militia authorities in the area where the applicant for repatriation resides. Repatriation certificates shall be valid for three months from their date of issue.

Article 8

(a) Persons departing from the USSR in accordance with this Agreement may take their property with them duty-free, provided that it is intended for their personal use and that its export from the Soviet Union is not prohibited.

Persons exercising a profession or trade, such as scientists, physicians, artists, artisans, etc., shall also have the right to take with them duty-free articles belonging to them which are required in their professional activity.

(b) The persons mentioned in paragraph (a) of this article may dispose of their property as they see fit in accordance with the legislation of the USSR.

If necessary, Soviet authorities shall extend to such persons all possible help in disposing of any houses, structures, etc., owned by them.

Such persons may authorize the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic at Moscow, the Consulate of the Polish People's Republic at Kiev or any individual to administer their property.

(c) Persons departing from the USSR in accordance with this Agreement may deposit their funds in the State Bank of the USSR, to be transferred to their account in the Polish National Bank.

The transfer of the aforesaid funds to the Polish People's Republic shall be effected through the non-commercial-payments account of the Polish National Bank in the State Bank of the USSR.

Article 9

The repatriation of unaccompanied children and disabled, aged and sick persons shall be effected with the assistance of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR and the Representative for Repatriation Affairs of the Government of the Polish People's Republic at the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic at Moscow.

Article 10

(a) Persons of Polish nationality repatriated in accordance with this Agreement shall relinquish Soviet citizenship upon their departure from the USSR and shall acquire Polish citizenship upon their arrival in the Polish People's Republic.

(b) Members of the families of repatriates, who are not persons of Polish nationality and who possess USSR citizenship, shall retain or relinquish USSR citizenship in accordance with the wishes they expressed when they applied for their exit documents. Persons relinquishing USSR citizenship shall acquire Polish citizenship upon their arrival in the Polish People's Republic.

Article 11

Applications for repatriation shall be accepted up to 1 October 1958, with a view to completing the repatriation of persons entitled thereto under this Agreement by 31 December 1958.

Article 12

The USSR Government shall extend full assistance in the discharge of his functions to the Representative for Repatriation Affairs of the Government of the Polish People's Republic at the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic at Moscow.

Article 13

The USSR Government, with the aid of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, shall make every effort to ascertain the fate and whereabouts in the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of persons sought by Polish institutions or by Polish citizens.

Article 14

All the provisions of this Agreement affecting persons of Polish nationality shall apply equally to persons of Jewish nationality who were Polish citizens on 17 September 1939.

Article 15

The right to repatriation provided in this Agreement shall not extend to persons evacuated in the years 1944 to 1947 from Poland to the Soviet Union in accordance with the Agreement of 9 September 1944 between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic concerning the evacuation of Polish citizens from the territory of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and of the Ukrainian population from the territory of Poland, the Agreement of 9 September 1944 between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic concerning the evacuation of Polish citizens from the territory of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and of the Byelorussian population from the territory of Poland, the Agreement of 22 September 1944 between the Polish Committee of National Liberation and the Government of

the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic concerning the evacuation of Polish citizens from the territory of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and of the Lithuanian population from the territory of Poland, and the Agreement of 6 July 1945 between the Provisional Government of National Unity of the Polish Republic and the Government of the USSR concerning the right of persons of Polish and Jewish nationality residing in the USSR to relinquish Soviet citizenship and their evacuation to Poland, and the right of persons of Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Ruthenian or Lithuanian nationality residing in the Territory of Poland to relinquish Polish citizenship and their evacuation to the USSR.

Article 16

Representatives of the competent organs of the Contracting Parties shall meet as necessary at Warsaw or Moscow to settle questions arising in the course of the repatriation operations.

Article 17

This Agreement is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Warsaw as soon as may be possible.

DONE at Moscow on 25 March 1957, in duplicate, in the Polish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the aforesaid plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

For the Government of the Polish People's Republic :

W. WICHA

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

N. DUDOROV