

No. 5300

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA
and
POLAND**

**Agreement concerning co-operation with regard to mine
rescue services. Signed at Katowice, on 16 December
1959**

Official texts: Czech and Polish.

Registered by Czechoslovakia on 11 August 1960.

**TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
et
POLOGNE**

**Accord de coopération dans le domaine des services de
sauvetage dans les mines. Signé à Katowice, le 16 décembre
1959**

Textes officiels tchèque et polonais.

Enregistré par la Tchécoslovaquie le 11 août 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5300. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC CONCERNING CO-OPERATION WITH REGARD TO MINE RESCUE SERVICES. SIGNED AT KATOWICE, ON 16 DECEMBER 1959

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic, desiring to enter into close co-operation with regard to mine rescue services, have decided to conclude this Agreement and have for this purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic :

Josef Jonáš, Minister of Fuel;

The Government of the Polish People's Republic :

Jan Mitreęga, Minister of Mining and Electric Power,

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

Article 1

Each Contracting Party shall, whenever the need arises, extend active assistance to the other Party, on request, in coal mine rescue operations.

Assistance shall be provided through the central mine rescue station of each of the Contracting Parties, i.e. it shall be provided to coal mines of the Czechoslovak Republic in the Ostrava-Karviná and Trutnov districts through the central mine rescue station at Bytom and to coal mines of the Polish People's Republic through the central mine rescue station at Ostrava-Radvanice.

The central mine rescue stations of the Contracting Parties shall exchange plans showing the location of the mines covered by the assistance programme and of the roads providing access to them from frontier crossing points.

Article 2

Active assistance shall be provided by dispatching a suitably equipped rescue team to the mine requiring assistance in the territory of the other Contracting Party for the purpose of taking part in rescue operations.

¹ Came into force on 17 May 1960, the date of the exchange of notes confirming its approval by the two Governments, in accordance with article 10.

Requests for assistance shall be made by telephone by the central mine rescue station of either Contracting Party to the central mine rescue station of the other Party.

Telephone calls relating to requests for assistance shall be treated as “ calls concerning the safety of life ” in accordance with the relevant provisions of the International Telephone Regulations. The competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall issue appropriate instructions to ensure rapid telephone communication between the aforementioned central mine rescue stations.

Article 3

With a view to providing assistance as rapidly as possible, rescue teams may cross the State frontier at the crossing point closest to the mine requiring assistance.

The central mine rescue station which dispatches assistance shall immediately so notify the competent frontier authorities.

The head of a rescue team which crosses the State frontier shall have in his possession a list of the names of all members of the team, which he shall present on request to the frontier authorities so that the persons crossing the frontier may be subjected to control measures. For each motor vehicle belonging to the rescue team which crosses the State frontier the head of the team shall have a list of the equipment and materials transported therein.

Rescue teams shall return by way of a guarded frontier crossing point, where they shall be subjected to frontier and customs control.

Article 4

While they are present in the territory of the other Contracting Party, the members of rescue teams shall be required to comply with the laws in force in that territory.

Fire-fighting vehicles belonging to rescue teams shall be entitled to use red signal lights and special sirens in the territory of the other Contracting Party. Other vehicles shall be entitled to use blue signal lights and appropriate sirens.

Article 5

Members of rescue teams dispatched at the request of the central mine rescue station of the other Contracting Party shall be insured against sickness and shall have pension coverage in accordance with the laws in force in the territory of the Contracting Party whose central mine rescue station dispatched the assistance, as provided by the Agreement between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Republic of Poland regarding social insurance, signed at Warsaw on 5 April 1948.¹

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 31, p. 355, and Vol. 340, p. 336.

The central mine rescue station requesting assistance shall, without charge, provide members of rescue teams dispatched at its request with any necessary first aid and with immediate medical treatment to the extent required and for as long as long as necessary while such persons are present in the territory of the Contracting Party whose central mine rescue station requested assistance.

Article 6

All costs connected with the provision of assistance shall be borne by the central mine rescue station or other competent authority of the Contracting Party whose central mine rescue station requested assistance, and, in particular :

1. The said station or authority shall refund to the central mine rescue station or other competent authority of the Contracting Party providing assistance :

- (a) The amount of all wages due to members of rescue teams for the period extending from their departure from the central mine rescue station providing assistance to their return to the said station;
- (b) Transport costs to and from the site of the rescue operations, including any costs resulting from damage to vehicles where such damage occurred through no fault of the rescue team concerned;
- (c) The value of materials consumed which were supplied by the central mine rescue station providing assistance;
- (d) Costs connected with the payment of social security pensions or sickness insurance benefits to members of rescue teams, where such payment was made in respect of a sickness or accident resulting from the provision of assistance in rescue operations;
- (e) Sums paid as compensation for injuries suffered by members of rescue teams in the performance of their duties or while proceeding to or from the site of the rescue operations, provided that the employer is liable for such compensation and without regard to any benefits to which the injured person is entitled under the social security arrangements referred to in article 5 of this Agreement. The amount of compensation shall be fixed in accordance with the law of the Contracting Party by which the rescue team in question was sent;
- (f) Costs connected with the conveyance of members of rescue teams who have been taken ill or have died;

2. The said station or authority shall refund the amount of all taxes and charges due on the sums referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, provided that such taxes and charges were levied by the competent authorities of the Contracting Party providing assistance;

3. It shall provide members of rescue teams, free of charge, with food, lodging, laundry service, and cleaning and repair of linen and clothing, and shall provide them with appropriate sums of money for incidental expenses;

4. It shall, where necessary, provide rescue teams with fuel for vehicles used in rescue operations and shall carry out necessary repairs of vehicles and equipment used in such operations.

In addition, the central mine rescue station requesting assistance shall pay to the central mine rescue station providing assistance the rewards due to members of rescue teams for participation in rescue operations, provided that the payment of such rewards has been approved.

Article 7

All obligations incurred in connexion with the provision of assistance in rescue operations shall be settled in accordance with the agreement between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Polish People's Republic concerning non-commercial payments which is in force on the day on which such obligations fall due. The time-limits and procedure for settlement of the obligations referred to in article 6 shall be fixed by the State banks of the Contracting Parties in consultation with the authorities concerned.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall exchange information concerning experience acquired with regard to mine rescue services.

The scope of the said exchange of information shall be determined by the over-all annual plans drawn up by the Ministry of Fuel of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Ministry of Mining and Electric Power of the Polish People's Republic on the basis of the protocol concerning direct economic, scientific and technical co-operation between scientific-research, construction, planning and economic organizations adopted by the Czechoslovak-Polish Committee on Economic Co-operation.

Article 9

Detailed provisions concerning co-operation with regard to mine rescue services shall be embodied in a Protocol of Execution to be adopted by the central mine rescue station at Ostrava-Radvanice and the central mine rescue station at Bytom.

Article 10

This Agreement shall be subject to approval by the two Governments and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of notes confirming such approval.

Article 11

This Agreement is concluded for a period of five years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be extended for successive periods of two years unless

one of the Contracting Parties terminates it not less than six months before the expiry of the current term.

DONE at Katowice on 16 December 1959, in duplicate in the Czech and Polish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Czechoslovak Republic :
(Signed) JONÁŠ

For the Government
of the Polish People's Republic :
(Signed) MITRĘGA