

No. 5809

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
SWITZERLAND**

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning arrangements to facilitate travel between the United Kingdom and Switzerland and between the United Kingdom and Liechtenstein. Berne, 27 February 1961

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 16 August 1961.

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
SUISSE**

Échange de notes constituant un accord tendant à faciliter la circulation des personnes entre le Royaume-Uni et la Suisse ainsi qu'entre le Royaume-Uni et le Liechtenstein. Berne, 27 février 1961

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le 16 août 1961.

No. 5809. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWITZERLAND AND BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND LIECHTENSTEIN. BERNE, 27 FEBRUARY 1961

N° 5809. ÉCHANGE DE NOTES CONSTITUANT UN ACCORD¹ ENTRE LE GOUVERNEMENT DU ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION SUISSE TENDANT À FACILITER LA CIRCULATION DES PERSONNES ENTRE LE ROYAUME-UNI ET LA SUISSE AINSI QU'ENTRE LE ROYAUME-UNI ET LE LIECHTENSTEIN. BERNE, 27 FÉVRIER 1961

I

Her Majesty's Embassy at Berne to the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police

L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté britannique à Berne au Département fédéral de justice et police de la Confédération suisse

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Federal Department of Justice and Police and have the honour to refer to the discussions which have been taking place between representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Swiss Confederation and to the recommendation of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation that member countries of the Organisation should admit each other's nationals to their territory for visits of not more than three months on presentation of identity cards based on the standard form recognised by the Tourism Committee of the Organisation.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy have the honour to inform the Department that as identity cards are not issued to residents of the United Kingdom a simplified form of passport known as the British Visitor's Passport will be available for issue from the 15th of March, 1961, to British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A British Visitor's Passport will be valid for one year from the date of issue. An applicant for a British Visitor's Passport will not be required by the United Kingdom authorities to produce

¹ Came into force on 15 March 1961, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

¹ Entré en vigueur le 15 mars 1961, conformément aux dispositions desdites notes.

documentary evidence of his identity and national status, but he will be required to sign a declaration that he is a British subject, citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A specimen of the British Visitor's Passport is attached as Annex " A " ¹ to this Note.

Accordingly, Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy have the honour to propose, on the instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, an agreement between the two Governments in the following terms :

(a) The Government of the Swiss Confederation undertakes to accept the British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport.

(b) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs (d) to (g) below holders of valid British Visitor's Passports may, without the necessity of obtaining a visa, enter and stay in Switzerland provided that their stay does not exceed three months and is not for employment or any other form of gainful activity.

(c) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs (d) to (g) below Swiss citizens in possession of their national identity cards (a specimen of which is attached to this Note as Annex " B " ¹) together with a British Visitor's Card (a specimen of which is at Annex " C " ¹) and Swiss children under the age of sixteen years in possession of a Laissez-passer issued by the authorities of any of the Cantons forming part of the Swiss Confederation (a specimen of which is at Annex " D " ¹) together with a British Visitor's Card without the necessity of obtaining a visa may enter and stay in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, provided their stay does not exceed three months and is not for employment or any other form of gainful activity.

(d) (I) A visitor who enters the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man under the provisions of sub-paragraph (c) above and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than three months shall be required to obtain a valid Swiss passport before the expiry of the three months' period;

(II) A visitor who enters Switzerland in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) above and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than three months shall be required to obtain a passport bearing on the cover the inscription " British Passport " before the expiry of the three months' period.

(e) Swiss citizens proceeding to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, or British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies, proceeding to Switzerland under the terms of this agreement shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with, respectively, the laws and regulations of the United Kingdom or of the Swiss Confederation relating to the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and the employment or occupation of foreigners. Travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations may be refused leave to enter or land.

(f) The right is reserved to the competent authorities of the Swiss Confederation and of the United Kingdom to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in the territory concerned in any case where that person is regarded as undesirable or otherwise

¹ Not reproduced in the copies of the Agreement transmitted for registration.

ineligible under the general policy of the respective Governments relating to the entry and stay of aliens.

(g) Either Government may suspend the provisions of this agreement in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public policy or national security, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the other Government through the diplomatic channels.

The Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Swiss Confederation undertake to take back to their respective territories at any time persons having entered the territory of the other Government under the terms of this agreement.

The provisions of this agreement shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to nationals of the Principality of Liechtenstein travelling to the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and to holders of the British Visitor's Passport travelling to the Principality of Liechtenstein. Specimens of the national identity card held by nationals of Liechtenstein and of the Laissez-passer held by children having Liechtenstein nationality are attached hereto as Annexes " E " ¹ and " F " ¹ respectively.

If the above proposals are acceptable to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy have the honour to suggest that the present Note together with the reply of the Federal Department of Justice and Police in that sense should constitute an agreement between the two Governments in this matter which shall enter into force on the 15th of March, 1961, and shall remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' written notice of termination to the other.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avail, etc.

Berne, February 27, 1961

II

The Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police to Her Majesty's Embassy at Berne *Le Département fédéral de justice et police de la Confédération suisse à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté britannique à Berne*

Le Département fédéral de justice et police a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note du 27 février 1961 de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique dont la teneur est la suivante :

« L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique présente ses compliments au Département fédéral de justice et police et a l'honneur de se référer aux discussions qui ont eu lieu entre les représentants du Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord et ceux du

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et la réponse du Département fédéral de justice et police constituent, entre les deux Gouvernements, un accord qui entrera en vigueur le 15 mars 1961. Cet accord est conclu pour la durée d'une année et sera renouvelable par tacite reconduction, sous réserve de notification écrite de dénonciation, six mois à l'avance, par l'un ou l'autre Gouvernement.

« L'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique saisit l'occasion de renouveler au Département fédéral de justice et police l'assurance de sa haute considération. »

Le Département a l'honneur de faire savoir à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté que le Gouvernement suisse est prêt à appliquer les dispositions ci-dessus et qu'il considère la note de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté et la présente réponse comme constituant, entre les deux Gouvernements, un accord qui entrera en vigueur le 15 mars 1961.

Le Département fédéral de justice et police saisit, etc.

Berne, le 27 février, 1961

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

The Federal Department of Justice and Police has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy's Note of February 27, 1961, which reads as follows :

[*See note I*]

The Department has the honour to inform Her Majesty's Embassy that the Swiss Government is prepared to carry out the above provisions and that it considers Her Majesty's Embassy's Note and the present reply as constituting an agreement between the two Governments which will enter into force on March 15, 1961.

The Federal Department of Justice and Police avails, etc.

Berne, February 27, 1961

¹ Translation by the Government of the United Kingdom.

² Traduction du Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni.