

**No. 9378**

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**FRANCE  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement concerning relations in respect of films. Signed at  
Moscow on 8 July 1967**

*Authentic texts: French and Russian.*

*Registered by France on 13 January 1969.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord sur les relations cinématographiques. Signé à Moscou  
le 8 juillet 1967**

*Textes authentiques : français et russe.*

*Enregistré par la France le 13 janvier 1969.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERN-  
ING RELATIONS IN RESPECT OF FILMS

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The Government of the French Republic and

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desiring to develop and expand co-operation between their film industries, in conformity with article VI of the Protocol dated 14 February 1967 concerning the sixth session of the Joint Standing Franco-Soviet Commission on Cultural Relations, on the one hand, and with the Trade Agreement of 30 October 1964, on the other hand,

Have decided to increase the exchange of films on a commercial basis and to promote the co-production of feature-length films which, by their artistic and technical qualities, will serve to enhance the prestige of the two countries; and they have therefore agreed as follows :

I. CO-PRODUCTION

*Article 1*

The competent authorities of the two countries :

In the case of France :

the National Film Centre (Centre national de la cinématographie)

In the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

the Film Industry Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR shall encourage the co-production of films.

*Article 2*

Films co-produced and qualified under this Agreement shall be regarded by the authorities of both countries as national films.

They shall have full right to all resultant advantages by virtue of the measures that are in force or that may be decreed in each country.

Co-production films shall be produced in accordance with the regulations applicable in each country to its national films.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 March 1968, i.e., thirty days after the notification of its approval by the two Governments, in accordance with article 22.

*Article 3*

Co-production contracts concluded between the production enterprises of the two countries in accordance with this Agreement shall specify the nature of the co-production film and the respective contributions of each party (artistic and technical participation, services to be provided and equipment required for the shooting and exploitation of the film).

*Article 4*

Co-production shall as a rule be effected by way of contributions from each of the parties in the form of artistic and technical participation and the provision of services and equipment.

Financial, artistic and technical (studios and laboratories) participation in co-productions must, taken as a whole, be balanced.

The balance in the over-all financial, artistic and technical participation by the co-producing countries shall be reviewed periodically by the Mixed Commission provided for in this Agreement.

*Article 5*

Of each co-production film, there shall be two negatives or one negative and one duplicate negative or, in the case of coloured films, one negative and one internegative. Each producer shall be the owner of one negative or duplicate negative, or one internegative.

*Article 6*

The following conditions shall govern the co-production of films :

- (1) The respective contribution of the producers of the two countries to each film may vary between thirty and seventy per cent.
- (2) The contribution of the minor co-producer must consist of effective artistic and technical participation. It must consist of at least one writer, one qualified technician, one leading artist and one feature artist.
- (3) Derogations from the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article may be permitted by the authorities of the Contracting Parties in the case of films for which the production cost estimates are higher than the average cost of film productions in the country of major participation. The participation of the minor co-producer shall not in any case be lower than twenty per cent of the cost of the film.

*Article 7*

The films shall be made by directors, technicians and artists who are French nationals or have privileged resident status in the case of the French Republic, or are Soviet nationals in the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In exceptional cases, the participation of a performer of international repute who is not of the nationality of either of the countries may be permitted subject to prior agreement between the competent authorities of the two countries.

#### *Article 8*

Receipts shall be divided in proportion to the total contribution of each of the co-producers.

This apportionment shall be effected either by a mathematical sharing of the receipts or by a geographical division, in which case allowance shall be made for any possible difference in the size of the markets of the signatory countries, or by a combination of both, which shall be subject to approval by the competent authorities of the two countries.

#### *Article 9*

In principle, co-production films shall be exported by the major co-producer.

Films in which both countries have participated in equal proportions shall be included in the quota of the country which has the better export possibilities. If any difficulties should arise, the film shall be included in the quota of the country of which the director is a national.

If the films of one of the co-producing countries enjoy the privilege of free entry into the importing country, the co-production films shall automatically enjoy the same privilege, on the same basis as national films.

#### *Article 10*

Credit titles, trailers and publicity material for co-production films shall carry notice to the effect that the films are Franco-Soviet co-productions.

The showing of co-production films at festivals shall be the responsibility of the country to which the major co-producer belongs, unless otherwise decided by the competent authorities of both countries.

#### *Article 11*

The competent authorities of the two countries shall consider favourably the co-production of films of international standing by the French Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and countries with which either of them has a co-production agreement.

Conditions for the acceptance of such films shall be determined on the merits of each individual case.

*Article 12*

Every facility shall be afforded for the travel and accommodation of artistic and technical personnel working on the production of these films, as well as for the import or export by either country of the material needed for the production and showing of co-production films (raw film, technical equipment, costumes, *décor*, publicity material, etc.)

## II. EXCHANGE OF FILMS

*Article 13*

The competent authorities of each country shall freely issue the necessary permits for the import, distribution and exhibition of short or feature-length films from the other country.

*Article 14*

No limitations shall be imposed on the import of Soviet films into France. In conformity with the laws in force the National Film Centre shall, upon application by distributors, issue permits to show dubbed versions of Soviet films in France.

The National Film Centre shall also afford the All-Union Association for the Export and Import of Films (hereinafter referred to as "Sovexportfilm") the most extensive assistance in establishing and developing its relations with French enterprises and shall provide distributors with every possible facility with a view to promoting the distribution of Soviet films in France, particularly through Government-controlled enterprises.

The competent Soviet authorities shall in conformity with the laws in force promote the import, and the distribution throughout the territory of the Soviet Union, of dubbed versions of French films.

Every possible measure shall be taken to ensure that the number of films imported by each of the Parties is every year higher than ten.

In addition, the competent authorities of each of the two countries shall take the necessary steps to promote the distribution of original-language versions of films of the other country.

*Article 15*

Contracts assigning the right to show Soviet films in France and French films in the Soviet Union shall be concluded freely between Sovexportfilm and the French enterprises concerned.

*Article 16*

All payments due under contracts concluded in pursuance of this Agreement shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Trade and Payments Agreements of 2 April 1960 between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Soviet Union, or of any other agreement which may supersede them.

*Article 17*

Films shall be freely chosen by Sovexportfilm, and by the French distributors and enterprises concerned, from the total available production of each country.

In principle, notification of the decision taken shall be communicated within two months from the date on which the films are received by the parties concerned.

*Article 18*

No changes, additions or cuts may be made in the films acquired without the prior written authorization of the producers concerned. This provision shall apply without distinction to every component of the films : pictures, commentary, dialogue, music and sound.

*Article 19*

The "release duty" (*taxe de sortie*) paid by Sovexportfilm on receipt of a permit for showing the dubbed version of a Soviet film in France shall be reimbursed to Sovexportfilm when the dubbed version of a feature-length French film is distributed in the Soviet Union.

## III. CULTURAL EVENTS AND EXCHANGES OF DELEGATIONS

*Article 20*

The National Film Centre and the Film Industry Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR shall be responsible, in so far as each is concerned, for applying the provisions of article VI, paragraphs 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the Protocol of 14 February 1967 to which reference is made in the preamble.

## IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

*Article 21*

A Mixed Commission shall be established to supervise the application of this Agreement, to settle any difficulties which may arise and to consider any

amendments which may be necessary for developing co-operation in the film industry in the common interest of both countries.

During the period of validity of this Agreement, this Commission shall meet each year alternately in the French Republic and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

It may also be convened at the request of either of the Contracting Parties, particularly if any significant changes are made in the laws or regulations relating to the film industry.

### *Article 22*

This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after notification of its approval by each of the two Governments. It has been concluded for a period of three years from the date of its entry into force. It shall be renewed by tacit agreement for successive periods of one year unless it is denounced by one of the Parties three months prior to the date of its expiry.

DONE in Moscow on 8 July 1967, in duplicate in the French and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the French Republic :

Olivier WORMSER  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of France  
to the USSR

For the Government  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics :

S. ROMANOV  
Chairman  
of the Film Industry Committee  
of the Council of Ministers  
of the USSR