

No. 10319

FRANCE
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Protocol concerning the return to France of the remains of French servicemen and war victims who died and were buried in the USSR as a result of or following the Second World War. Signed at Moscow on 13 October 1969

Authentic texts: French and Russian.

Registered by France on 19 February 1970.

FRANCE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES

Protocole relatif au rapatriement en France des corps des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre français décédés et inhumés en U.R.S.S. du fait ou à la suite de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Signé à Moscou le 13 octobre 1969

Textes authentiques: français et russe.

Enregistré par la France le 19 février 1970.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

PROTOCOL¹ CONCERNING THE RETURN TO FRANCE
OF THE REMAINS OF FRENCH SERVICEMEN AND
WAR VICTIMS WHO DIED AND WERE BURIED IN THE
USSR AS A RESULT OF OR FOLLOWING THE SECOND
WORLD WAR

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have agreed as follows :

Article 1

At the request of the French Government, the Soviet Government shall take the necessary steps to ensure the return to France of the remains of French servicemen and war victims who died and were buried in the Soviet Union as a result of or following the Second World War and whose remains are claimed by their families.

Article 2

The French authorities shall make available to the Soviet authorities the information they possess on the place of burial of French nationals, and any other information useful for the discovery, exhumation and return to France of the remains of French nationals.

Article 3

The remains shall be exhumed, placed in coffins and transported to the points of delivery at the instance and expense of the Soviet Union, in accordance with the regulations in force in the USSR. The French Government undertakes to reimburse the costs occasioned by the exhumation, coffin and transport of the remains by rail, river, road or sea, in accordance with the rates prevailing in the USSR.

Article 4

When the identification of remains is apt to give rise to difficulties or if difficulties arise in the course of exhumation operations authorization for French specialists to be present shall be given, in each individual case, with the agreement of the competent Soviet organs.

The French Government shall defray the travel expenses of attending specialists, who shall not be accompanied by their families; the number of

¹ Came into force on 13 October 1969 by signature, in accordance with article 9.

specialists and length of their stay shall be decided by agreement between the two Governments.

Article 5

The Soviet Government shall take steps to ensure that the work of exhuming and transferring remains can begin not later than during the second half of 1969.

The Soviet Government shall continue its efforts to trace the burial places of French nationals and shall periodically inform the French Government of the progress and results of such efforts.

Article 6

When the work of exhuming and transferring the remains has been completed, the two Governments shall examine the question of concentrating in one or more cemeteries of the Soviet Union the remains of French nationals not claimed by the French Government, and of the portion of the related expenses to be borne by each Government.

Article 7

The procedures for implementing this Protocol shall be the subject of appropriate arrangements between the competent authorities.

Article 8

If so requested by the Soviet Government, the French Government shall favourably consider the question of tracing, repatriating and redistributing the remains of Soviet nationals—servicemen and war victims—who died and were buried in France as a result of or following the Second World War.

Article 9

This Protocol is concluded for a period of five years and shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

The period of validity of this Protocol may be extended if the two Governments so desire.

DONE at Moscow on 13 October 1969 in duplicate in the French and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic :

Maurice SCHUMANN

For the Government
of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics :

A. GROMYKO