

No. 11175

**BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG and NETHERLANDS
(BENELUX),
and
PHILIPPINES**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning the abolition of visas (with related letters). Manila, 1 March 1971

Authentic text: English.

Registered by Belgium on 18 June 1971.

**BELGIQUE, LUXEMBOURG et PAYS-BAS
(BENELUX),
et
PHILIPPINES**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif à la suppression du visa (avec lettres connexes). Manille, 1^{er} mars 1971

Texte authentique: anglais.

Enregistré par la Belgique le 18 juin 1971.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CONCERNING THE ABOLITION OF VISAS

I

Manila, March 1, 1971

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to conversations between representatives of the Governments of the Benelux countries and representatives of the Government of the Philippines relating to the facilitation of travel between their respective countries by abolishing visa requirements. We are instructed to communicate to Your Excellency that the Governments of the Benelux countries are prepared to conclude an agreement with respect to this matter in the following terms:

1. In this Agreement, the term "Benelux countries" shall mean: the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands; the term "Benelux territory" shall mean: the joint territories in Europe of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

2. Nationals of the Benelux countries holding valid national passports shall be free to enter the Philippines as tourists or for business purposes at any authorized point of entry and to stay in the country for a maximum period of 90 days without the necessity of obtaining a visa. No guaranty shall be demanded. Simultaneously with the sending of this letter and Your affirmative letters in reply there shall also be an exchange of letters on these provisions.

3. Nationals of the Philippines holding valid Philippine passports shall be free to enter Benelux territory as tourists or for business purposes at any authorized point of entry and to stay in the Benelux countries for a maximum period of 90 days without the necessity of obtaining a visa. No guaranty shall be demanded.

¹ Came into force on 1 April 1971, in accordance with paragraph 8. In a notification dated 1 March 1971, the Government of the Netherlands informed the Government of the Philippines of the extension of the Agreement in accordance with its paragraph 7 to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, with effect from 1 April 1971.

4. Each government reserves the right to refuse to admit to its territory any person not holding the documents required for entry or lacking sufficient means of support, or to refuse to admit persons regarded as undesirable aliens or whose presence in the country is regarded as prejudicial to law and order or national security.

5. The present Agreement shall not affect the aliens regulations in force in the Benelux countries and in the Philippines concerning entry, length of stay, residence, expulsion and the taking of employment or the exercise of any profession with or without compensation.

6. Each Government undertakes to admit to its territory, at any time and without formalities, holders of valid national passports issued by the said Government, as also persons of whom it has been proved that they are nationals of the country represented by this Government.

Each Government shall also admit persons who are no longer in possession of a passport, if it has been established that they have entered the territory of the other Contracting Party on presentation of a passport as referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

7. As regards the Kingdom of the Netherlands this Agreement may be extended to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles by a Netherlands Government notification addressed to the Government of the Philippines.

8. The Agreement shall enter into force on April 1st, 1971 and shall remain in effect for a period of one year. Unless the Agreement is denounced by one of the Governments at least three months before the expiry of this period, it shall thereafter remain in force for an indefinite period. However, each Government may denounce the Agreement by notifying the Belgian Government thereof in writing. The denunciation shall take effect at the end of a period of three months after the receipt of the notification by the Belgian Government. The Belgian Government shall inform the other Contracting Governments of the receipt of a notification regarding denunciation.

9. Any of the Contracting Governments may suspend the operation of this Agreement by notification to the Belgian Government through diplomatic channels. Suspension by one of the Contracting Governments shall also suspend its operation in respect of the other Contracting Governments. However suspension shall not affect the operation of paragraphs 6 and 8. The Belgian Government shall inform the other Contracting Governments of the receipt of notification of suspension as referred to above, as also of the receipt of a notification to the effect that the suspension has been terminated.

If these provisions are acceptable to Your Government we have the honour to propose that this letter and Your Excellency's letters in reply to each of us concurring herein shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the Philippines, on the one hand, and the Governments of the Benelux countries, acting jointly under the Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand

Duchy of Luxemburg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands signed at Brussels on 11 April 1960¹ concerning the transfer of immigration control to the outer frontiers of Benelux, on the other.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

For the Government of Belgium:
BOB J. L. LEBACQ

For the Government of Luxemburg:
TJARK A. MEURS

For the Government of the Netherlands:
TJARK A. MEURS

His Excellency General Carlos P. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
Manila

II

No. 71-574

Manila, March 1, 1971

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the joint letter of the Benelux countries dated March 1, 1971, which reads as follows:

[*See letter I*]

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Philippine Government accepts the aforementioned provisions and agrees that the joint letter and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the Philippine Government and the Benelux countries.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[*Signed — Signé*]²
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Bob J. L. Lebacq
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of Belgium
Manila

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 374, p. 3.

² Signed by Carlos P. Romulo — Signé par Carlos P. Romulo.

RELATED LETTERS

I

Manila, March 1, 1971

Excellency,

We have the honour to refer to paragraph 2 of the Agreement between the Benelux countries and the Republic of the Philippines on the abolition of visa which was signed today and to propose the following:

1. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of the said Agreement, nationals of the Benelux countries who have entered the Republic of the Philippines in accordance with the Agreement and who wish to stay for a period exceeding two months but not longer than three months shall apply for permission for a prolonged sojourn with the competent Philippines authorities.
2. Upon receipt of such applications the competent Philippines authorities shall grant the requested permission without delay, subject to the provisions of the Philippines law and regulations.

If these proposals are acceptable to Your Government we have the honour to propose that the present letter and Your Excellency's replies concurring therein shall constitute an agreement between our Governments which shall be valid for the same period as the agreement mentioned above.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

For the Government of Belgium:
BOB J. L. LEBACQ

For the Government of Luxemburg:
TJARK A. MEURS

For the Government of the Netherlands:
TJARK A. MEURS

His Excellency General Carlos P. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs
Manila

II

No. 71-575

Manila, March 1, 1971

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the joint letter of the Benelux countries dated March 1, 1971, which reads as follows:

No. 11175

[See letter I]

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Philippine Government accepts the aforementioned proposals and agrees that the joint letter and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the Philippine Government and the Benelux countries, which shall be valid for the same period as the agreement on the abolition of visa between the same Parties.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signed — Signé]¹
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Bob J. L. Lebacqz
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of Belgium
Manila

¹ Signed by Carlos P. Romulo — Signé par Carlos P. Romulo.