

No. 11406

FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Agreement concerning rescue operations in Finnish and Soviet waters (with exchange of letters). Signed at Helsinki on 25 August 1971

Authentic texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 11 November 1971.

FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES

Accord sur l'exécution d'opérations de sauvetage dans les eaux finlandaises et soviétiques (avec échange de lettres). Signé à Helsinki le 25 août 1971

Textes authentiques: finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 11 novembre 1971.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CON-
CERNING RESCUE OPERATIONS IN FINNISH AND
SOVIET WATERS

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desiring to develop further good-neighbourly relations and to strengthen co-operation between the two countries,

Considering that the swift provision of assistance can be a decisive factor in the successful rescue of a vessel in distress and its cargo,

Have, with a view to providing vessels in distress with the most effective possible assistance in all cases, agreed on the following:

Article 1

If a vessel sailing under the flag of one Contracting Party proceeding or otherwise present in the territorial or inland maritime waters of the other Contracting Party, requires assistance because it has met with an accident or is in distress, the master or owner of the vessel may, at his own discretion, call on a vessel sailing under the flag of either Contracting Party to render assistance and carry out rescue operations.

Where a vessel of one Contracting Party has met with an accident or is in distress outside the limits of the territorial waters of the other Contracting Party and requires immediate assistance, such vessel may be brought into the territorial or inland maritime waters of the other Contracting Party with the aid of any vessel sailing under the same flag, for the purpose of repairing the damage. In such cases, the procedure for entering territorial or inland maritime waters provided for in article 2 of this Agreement shall apply to the vessel rendering assistance.

¹ Came into force on 24 September 1971, the thirtieth day after the date of its signature, in accordance with article 6.

Vessels present in the territorial or inland maritime waters of the other Contracting Party must comply with its laws and regulations relating to visits of foreign vessels and nationals and to the conduct of rescue and hoisting operations, due regard being had to the provisions of this Agreement.

The provisions of this Agreement relating to vessels shall also apply to other floating installations.

Article 2

Free access to the territorial or inland maritime waters of the Contracting Parties, as provided for in article 1, for the purpose of rendering assistance shall be subject to the condition that the competent authorities of the country in whose waters the vessel in distress is present receive, as soon as possible and not later than the time when the rescue vessel or other vessel of one Contracting Party rendering assistance reaches the territorial waters of the other Contracting Party, information on the nature of the distress and on the names of the organization (enterprise or institution) and the vessel (or vessels) which are to carry out the rescue operations.

The procedure for communicating the information referred to in the first paragraph of this article shall be determined by means of a special exchange of letters.

Article 3

The assistance referred to in this Agreement shall include any type of rescue, hoisting, towing or other assistance given at sea to a vessel in distress or its cargo.

Article 4

This Agreement shall apply to warships to the extent that such application is in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of each Contracting Party governing the entry of foreign warships into its waters.

Article 5

This Agreement shall be applicable in Soviet territorial and inland maritime waters in the Baltic Sea, including the Gulf of Finland, with the exception of areas in which navigation or anchoring is prohibited, as announced in “*Notices to Mariners*”.

This Agreement shall be applicable in Finnish territorial and inland maritime waters in the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, with the exception of areas in which navigation or anchoring is prohibited, as announced in “ *Notices to Mariners* ”.

The Contracting Parties shall give prompt, favourable consideration to requests for permission to carry out rescue operations in the prohibited areas referred to in this article.

Article 6

This Agreement is concluded for a term of three years and shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the date of its signature.

Unless it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties at least six months before the expiry of the said term, the Agreement shall remain in force for a further term of one year, and it shall similarly be deemed to be extended for successive terms until such time as it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties at least six months before the expiry of its current term.

DONE on 25 August 1971, in duplicate in the Finnish and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Finland:

ARNE BERNER

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

T. B. GUZHENKO

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

I

Helsinki, 25 August 1971

Sir,

On the occasion of the signing this day of the Agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Republic of Finland concerning rescue operations in Soviet and Finnish waters, I have the honour to propose that the procedure for communicating the information referred to in article 2 of the Agreement should be as follows:

In the case of the Soviet Union, information shall be communicated to the Finnish frontier authorities directly by Telex No. 12-865 or No. 9-5327 or by radio through Finnish coastal radio stations.

Where information is communicated by radiogram through a Finnish coastal radio station, the Helsinki radio station shall be used.

The Kaliningrad coastal radio station shall make contact with the Helsinki coastal radio station (call sign OHC) on a frequency of 500 kHz. Once contact is established, the Helsinki radio station shall transmit on a frequency of 438 kHz and receive on a frequency of 441 kHz. Vessels shall make contact with the latter station on a frequency of 500 kHz, and use shall thereafter be made of working frequencies of 425, 454, 468 or 480 kHz in the case of vessels and of 438 kHz in the case of the Helsinki radio station.

Where contact is not established with the above-mentioned coastal radio station, the radiogram shall be sent through another coastal radio station.

The information being communicated shall be designated by the "urgency signal" (XXX).

In the case of Finland, information shall be communicated to the Ministry of Shipping of the USSR directly by Telex No. 197 (reply to call: MOSKVA MORFLOT) or by radio through Soviet coastal radio stations (telegraph address: MOSKVA MORFLOT).

Where information is communicated by radiogram through a Soviet coastal radio station, the Kaliningrad radio station shall be used.

Finnish coastal radio stations shall make contact with the Kaliningrad radio station (call sign UMQ) on a frequency of 500 kHz. Once contact is established, the Kaliningrad radio station shall transmit on a frequency of 441 kHz and receive on a frequency of 438 kHz. Vessels shall also make contact with the latter station on a frequency of 500 kHz, and use shall thereafter be made of working frequencies of 425, 454, 468, or 480 kHz in the case of vessels and of 441 kHz in the case of the Kaliningrad radio station.

Where contact is not established with the above-mentioned coastal radio station, the radiogram shall be sent to another coastal radio station.

The information being communicated shall be designated by the “urgency signal” (XXX).

I further have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply confirming agreement with its contents should be deemed to be the exchange of letters referred to in the second paragraph of article 2 of the Agreement.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

T. B. GUZHENKO
Minister of Shipping of the USSR

II

Helsinki, 25 August 1971

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

[*See letter I*]

I hereby confirm that the Government of Finland is in agreement with the contents of the above-mentioned letter.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

ARNE BERNER

Minister of Trade and Industry
of the Republic of Finland