

**No. 14598**

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**NETHERLANDS  
and  
SURINAM**

**Agreement concerning the assignment of nationality. Signed  
at Paramaribo on 25 November 1975**

*Authentic text: Dutch.*

*Registered by the Netherlands on 19 February 1976.*

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**PAYS-BAS  
et  
SURINAM**

**Accord concernant l'attribution de la nationalité. Signé à  
Paramaribo le 25 novembre 1975**

*Texte authentique : néerlandais.*

*Enregistré par les Pays-Bas le 19 février 1976.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT OF NATIONALITY

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Republic of Surinam,

Considering it desirable, in connexion with the attainment of independence by Surinam, to regulate the question of nationality,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the terms “of full age” and “majority” shall refer to persons who have reached the age of 18 years or have married at an earlier age.

2. In the application of this Agreement, the terms “father” and “mother” shall include adoptive fathers and adoptive mothers, respectively.

3. In the application of this Agreement, a child found or abandoned in Surinam shall be deemed to have been born of parents born in that country.

*Article 2.* 1. The acquisition of Surinamese nationality pursuant to this Agreement shall entail the loss of Netherlands nationality.

2. The acquisition of Netherlands nationality pursuant to this Agreement shall entail the loss of Surinamese nationality.

*Article 3.* All Netherlands nationals of full age who were born in Surinam and whose domicile or place of actual residence is in the Republic of Surinam on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement shall acquire Surinamese nationality.

*Article 4.* Surinamese nationality shall, moreover, be acquired by all Netherlands nationals of full age who, having been born outside Surinam, have either their domicile or their place of actual residence in the Republic of Surinam on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement

(a) if either their father or, if he is legally unknown, their mother was born in Surinam. If it is not known where the father or, if he is legally unknown, the mother was born, the said father or mother shall be deemed to have been born in Surinam;

(b) if they acquired Netherlands nationality

1. pursuant to the Agreement concerning the assignment of citizens, incorporated into the Transfer of Sovereignty to Indonesia Act (Act of 27 December 1949,<sup>2</sup> *Stb.* J 570), and had either their domicile or their place of actual residence in Surinam on 27 December 1949;

2. by naturalization according to law and had their domicile or place of actual residence in Surinam on the date of the submission of the application;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 25 November 1975, in accordance with article 13.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 69, p. 3.

3. as a result of marriage to a Netherlands national, either automatically or by declaration, provided that their domicile or place of actual residence was in Surinam when the marriage was solemnized.

*Article 5.* 1. Netherlands nationals of full age who were born in Surinam or who, although born outside Surinam, belong to one of the groups of persons described in article 4 (b) and on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement have their domicile or place of actual residence outside the Republic of Surinam may acquire Surinamese nationality, even outside the Republic of Surinam, by making a declaration signifying their desire for such nationality prior to 1 January 1986.

2. The persons referred to in paragraph 1 shall have the unconditional right to be admitted to the Republic of Surinam with their families at any time and there to be treated as Surinamese nationals in every sense. They shall acquire Surinamese nationality automatically if they have their domicile or place of actual residence in the Republic of Surinam for a period of two years.

3. Spouses of the persons referred to in paragraph 1 and their children, including adopted children, born before the year 2001 shall also have the right, under paragraph 2, to unconditional admission to the Republic of Surinam.

4. So long as they possess Netherlands nationality, the persons referred to in the preceding paragraphs may be granted no rights and subjected to no obligations which are incompatible with Netherlands nationality.

*Article 6.* 1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, minors shall follow the nationality of their father or, if he is deceased or legally unknown, of their mother.

2. Minors shall follow the nationality acquired or held by their mother pursuant to this Agreement if, and during such time as, they reside with their mother in a country other than that in which their father resides.

3. Articles 2 to 5, 9 and 10 shall apply, as appropriate, to minors if their parents are deceased or unknown or if their father or, if he is deceased or legally unknown, their mother does not have Netherlands nationality.

4. The minors referred to in the preceding paragraphs may acquire the nationality which they would have acquired or could have acquired or held if on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement they had already attained their majority, by making a declaration signifying their desire for such nationality within five years of attaining their majority, provided that the nationality in question is that of the country in which they are then domiciled. In the case of persons who have been placed by reason of mental illness, under guardianship, the same shall apply after the termination of such guardianship.

5. Minors who were born outside Surinam to a mother of Netherlands nationality also born outside Surinam, who on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement have their domicile or place of actual residence in the Republic of Surinam and who have lost their Netherlands nationality pursuant to paragraph 1 may recover that status by making a declaration signifying their desire so to do within five years of attaining their majority.

*Article 7.* 1. Where the nationality of a spouse is changed pursuant to this Agreement, each of the spouses shall have the right to acquire the nationality

of the other spouse by making a declaration signifying his or her desire for such nationality within five years of the change, provided that the two spouses have their domicile or place of actual residence in the same country on the date of the said declaration.

2. Persons covered by the provisions of paragraph 1 who make the declaration referred to in that paragraph may, upon the dissolution or annulment of their marriage, recover the nationality which they held immediately before making the declaration by making a further declaration signifying their desire for such nationality within three years of the dissolution or annulment of the marriage.

*Article 8.* 1. Persons acquiring Surinamese nationality pursuant to this Agreement who on the date of the entry into force of the Agreement hold a Government post with the Netherlands or the Netherlands Antilles may recover Netherlands nationality as from that date by making a declaration signifying their desire for such nationality within one year of the said date.

2. Netherlands nationals holding a Government post with the Republic of Surinam on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement who do not derive Surinamese nationality from this Agreement may acquire that nationality as from the said date by making a declaration signifying their desire for such nationality within one year of the said date.

3. The above-mentioned declarations may no longer be made after the service in question has terminated.

*Article 9.* Netherlands nationals domiciled in the Republic of Surinam on the date of the entry into force of this Agreement who have not acquired Surinamese nationality pursuant to this Agreement may acquire that status by making a declaration signifying their desire to do so within three years of the entry into force of this Agreement, provided that they are domiciled in the Republic of Surinam and of full age on the date of the declaration.

*Article 10.* Persons deriving Surinamese nationality from article 3 of this Agreement whose father or, if he is legally unknown, mother was born a Netherlands national outside Surinam may recover Netherlands nationality as from the date of the entry into force of this Agreement by making a declaration signifying their desire for such nationality within one year.

*Article 11.* 1. The declarations referred to in this Agreement may be made:

- (a) in the Netherlands, to the Mayor of the commune in which the person concerned has his domicile or place of actual residence or to the diplomatic representative or consular officials of the Republic of Surinam;
- (b) in the Netherlands Antilles, to authorities designated by the Governor or to consular officials of the Republic of Surinam;
- (c) in the Republic of Surinam, to an authority to be designated by the Minister of Justice or to the diplomatic representative or consular officials of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- (d) in other foreign countries, to diplomatic representatives or consular officials of the Kingdom of the Netherlands or the Republic of Surinam.

2. The declarations of minors shall be made by their legal representatives. The declarations of persons placed under guardianship by reason of mental illness shall be made by their guardians.

3. Save as otherwise provided in this Agreement, declarations shall not apply retroactively.

4. A copy of all declarations shall be sent forthwith to the Ministers of Justice of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and the Republic of Surinam.

*Article 12.* Any questions arising with regard to the application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultation between the national administrations of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Surinam, without prejudice to the authority of the competent judges in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Surinam to render decisions in accordance with the laws in force in those countries.

*Article 13.* This Agreement shall enter into force on 25 November 1975.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized for the purpose by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Paramaribo on 25 November 1975, in duplicate in the Dutch language.

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:  
J. M. DEN UYL

For the Government  
of the Republic of Surinam:  
H. A. E. ARRON