

**No. 17145**

---

**FRANCE**  
**and**  
**BENIN**

**Agreement on the movement of persons. Signed at Cotonou  
on 27 February 1975**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 27 October 1978.*

---

**FRANCE**  
**et**  
**BÉNIN**

**Convention sur la circulation des personnes. Signée à  
Cotonou le 27 février 1975**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistrée par la France le 27 octobre 1978.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF DAHOMEY ON THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and  
The Government of the Republic of Dahomey, on the other hand,  
Have agreed as follows:

*Article I.* In order to enter the territory of the Republic of Dahomey, French nationals, whatever their country of residence, must be in possession of a passport whose validity has not expired and the compulsory international vaccination certificates required by the legislation in force in that State. They must also provide a guarantee of repatriation.

*Article II.* In order to enter the territory of the French Republic, Dahomean nationals, whatever their country of residence, must be in possession of a passport whose validity has not expired and the compulsory international vaccination certificates required by the legislation in force in that State. They must also provide a guarantee of repatriation.

*Article III.* Any of the following three documents shall constitute a guarantee of repatriation:

- (1) An individual and non-transferable circular or return travel ticket valid for one year, in respect of transit or stays not exceeding three months;
- (2) A receipt for a deposit, issued by the Deposit and Consignment Office in Paris in respect of French nationals, and by the competent service of the Republic of Dahomey in respect of Dahomean nationals.

The uniform rate for such deposits shall be 75,000 CFA francs or 1,500 French francs and may be altered by an exchange of letters in the event of an appreciable variation in the cost of travel;

- (3) A statement from a banking establishment recognized by the State of origin guaranteeing the repatriation of the person concerned if he should be unable to bear the cost of repatriation himself.

*Article IV.* The following persons shall not be required to provide a guarantee of repatriation:

- (1) Statesmen and Members of Parliament of the two countries;
- (2) Diplomatic and consular officials and their families;
- (3) Civilian and military officials, officers and employees of the public institutions of each State and their families who have a mission order or travel warrant;

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 April 1978, i.e., the first day of the second month following the exchange of the instruments of approval, which took place at Paris on 17 February 1978, in accordance with article XVI.

- (4) Students and trainees designated by their Government and travelling from one State to the other in order to receive training who have an official document attesting to such designation, issued by their national authorities;
- (5) Seamen under the conditions defined in article XII below.

*Article V.* Nationals of each Contracting Party wishing to engage in a professional activity in the territory of the other Party must also, in order to be admitted to the territory of that Party, prove that they are in possession of a medical certificate drawn up within the two months preceding the date of departure and issued:

- In respect of entry into France, by the competent French Consul, after an examination in Dahomean territory by a physician approved by the Consul, in agreement with the Dahomean health authorities;
- In respect of entry into Dahomey, by the competent Dahomean Consul, after an examination in French territory by a physician approved by the Consul, in agreement with the French health authorities.

*Article VI.* Nationals of one of the Parties wishing to engage in a paid professional activity in the territory of the other Party must also, in order to be admitted to the territory of that Party, be in possession of, in addition to the documents stipulated in articles I, II, III and IV, a written contract of employment bearing the stamp of approval of the Ministry of Labour of the host country. The Ministries of Labour of the Contracting Parties may consult each other directly.

*Article VII.* For any stay in Dahomean territory to exceed three months, French nationals must be in possession of and present on demand the residence permit issued by the competent Dahomean authorities.

For any stay in French territory to exceed three months, Dahomean nationals must be in possession of and present on demand the residence permit issued by the competent French authorities.

*Article VIII.* When they are to permit engagement in a paid professional activity, the documents mentioned in the preceding article shall be delivered to the persons concerned on presentation, at the time of their arrival, of the contract of employment specified in article VI and shall bear the indication "paid worker". They shall be renewed under the conditions stipulated by the legislation of the State of residence.

*Article IX.* French nationals wishing to establish themselves in Dahomey and Dahomean nationals wishing to establish themselves in France in order to engage in an unpaid activity there or without engaging in a lucrative activity must, on expiry of the three month period stipulated in article VII, provide all necessary proof of their means of support.

*Article X.* Nationals of each of the Contracting Parties wishing to enter the territory of the other Party to pursue studies must, in order to be admitted to the territory of that Party when they have not been designated by their Government, be in possession of, in addition to the documents stipulated in articles I, II and III of this Agreement, a certificate issued by the educational institution which they are to attend. Certificates issued by private establishments must bear the stamp of approval of the competent authorities of the host country.

*Article XI.* The families of nationals of one of the Contracting Parties wishing to join the head of the family established in the territory of the other Party must, in order to be admitted to the territory of that Party, be in possession of, in addition to the documents stipulated in articles I, II and III of this Agreement, a housing certificate issued in accordance with the regulations of the host country and the medical certificate stipulated in article V of this Agreement.

*Article XII.* On presentation of their seamen's book and the required vaccination certificates, Dahomean seamen shall be authorized to enter France and French seamen shall be authorized to enter Dahomey if they are in possession of one of the following:

- A letter attesting to permanent employment by a shipping company;
- A contract of employment in good and due form;
- A letter guaranteeing their immediate embarkation on a specific ship, from a shipping company or a shipowner established in the territory of one of the two Contracting Parties.

These conditions may be met through the issue of a travel order by the competent maritime authority.

French seamen disembarking in Dahomey and Dahomean seamen disembarking in France, for any reason other than disciplinary or penal reasons, shall be free to remain in either of the two countries for a period of one month from the day after their disembarkation, as duly recorded in their seamen's book by the competent authority. If this period has expired, or if the date of disembarkation has not been recorded in the book, the seaman may be repatriated at any time by the competent authorities of the country of disembarkation, at the expense of his most recent employer.

*Article XIII.* The provisions of the preceding articles do not affect the right of the Contracting Parties to take measures necessary for the maintenance of public order and for the protection of health and public security.

*Article XIV.* Nationals of one of the Contracting Parties residing in the territory of the other Party on 1 December 1974 shall automatically be granted a renewable residence permit valid for a period of not less than five years.

This document must be requested within a period not exceeding six months from the entry into force of this Agreement.

*Article XV.* In order to facilitate the application of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall, within a period of one month following its entry into force, transmit to each other all useful information regarding the competent authorities or organs specified in article III, paragraphs 2 and 3; article IV, paragraph 4; article VII; article X; article XII, second and third subparagraphs, together with all necessary information regarding the provisions of their legislation and regulations relating to articles I, II, VIII and XI.

Similar action shall be taken if there should be any changes in such legislation and regulations and in the aforementioned authorities or organs.

*Article XVI.* This Agreement rescinds and supersedes the Agreement of 12 February 1971 on the movement of persons.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 796, p. 305.

It is concluded for a period of two years which may be renewed by tacit agreement unless denounced by one of the Parties.

Notice of denunciation shall be given through the diplomatic channel at least six months in advance.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the exchange of instruments of approval, which shall take place in Paris as soon as possible.

DONE in Cotonou, on 27 February 1975.

For the Government of the French Republic:

[*Signed*]

PIERRE ABELIN  
Minister for Co-operation

For the Government of the Republic of Dahomey:

[*Signed*]

MICHEL ALLADAYE  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

---