

**No. 19785**

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**JAPAN  
and  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect  
to taxes on income. Signed at Prague on 11 October  
1977**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by Japan on 20 May 1981.*

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**JAPON  
et  
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE**

**Convention tendant à éviter la double imposition en matière  
d'impôts sur le revenu. Signée à Prague le 11 octobre  
1977**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistrée par le Japon le 20 mai 1981.*

CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

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Japan and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic,

Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

*Article 2.* 1. The taxes which are the subject of this Convention are:

(a) In Japan:

- (i) The income tax;
  - (ii) The corporation tax; and
  - (iii) The local inhabitant taxes
- (hereinafter referred to as “Japanese tax”);

(b) In Czechoslovakia:

- (i) The taxes on profits;
  - (ii) The wages tax;
  - (iii) The tax on income from literary and artistic activities;
  - (iv) The agricultural tax;
  - (v) The tax on population income; and
  - (vi) The house tax
- (hereinafter referred to as “Czechoslovak tax”).

2. This Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of this Convention in addition to, or in place of, those referred to in the preceding paragraph. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify to each other any changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws within a reasonable period of time after such changes.

*Article 3.* 1. In this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The term “Japan”, when used in a geographical sense, means all the territory in which the laws relating to Japanese tax are in force;

(b) The term “Czechoslovakia” means the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic;

(c) The terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Japan or Czechoslovakia, as the context requires;

(d) The term “tax” means Japanese tax or Czechoslovak tax, as the context requires;

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 25 November 1978, i.e., the thirtieth day after the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Tokyo on 26 October 1978, in accordance with article 28.

(e) The term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;

(f) The term “company” means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;

(g) The terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;

(h) The term “nationals” means all individuals possessing the nationality of either Contracting State and all juridical persons created or organized under the laws of that Contracting State and all organizations without juridical personality treated for the purposes of tax of that Contracting State as juridical persons created or organized under the laws of that Contracting State;

(i) The term “competent authority” in relation to a Contracting State means the Minister of Finance of that Contracting State or his authorized representative;

(j) The term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State.

2. As regards the application of this Convention by a Contracting State, any term not otherwise defined in this Convention shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

*Article 4.* 1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that Contracting State, is liable to taxation therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of head or main office, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature; the term does not include any individual who is liable to tax in that Contracting State only if he derives income from sources therein.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then the competent authorities shall determine by mutual agreement the Contracting State of which that individual shall be deemed to be a resident for the purposes of this Convention.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which its head or main office is situated.

*Article 5.* 1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business in which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” shall include especially:

- (a) A place of management;
- (b) A branch;
- (c) An office;
- (d) A factory;
- (e) A workshop;

- (f) A mine, quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources;
  - (g) A building site or construction or assembly project which exists for more than twelve months.
3. The term “permanent establishment” shall not be deemed to include:
- (a) The use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
  - (b) The maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
  - (c) The maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) The maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;
  - (e) The maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise;
  - (f) An assembly project carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State in connection with the delivery of machinery or equipment from that Contracting State to the other Contracting State.

4. A person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State—other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 5 applies—shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State if he has, and habitually exercises in that first-mentioned Contracting State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

5. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other Contracting State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, where such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

6. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

*Article 6.* 1. Income from immovable property may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

2. The term “immovable property” shall be defined in accordance with the laws of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting immovable property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working

of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of professional services.

*Article 7.* 1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in that other Contracting State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in this article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this article.

*Article 8.* 1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. In respect of the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State, that enterprise, if an enter-

prise of Czechoslovakia, shall be exempt from the enterprise tax in Japan, and, if an enterprise of Japan, shall be exempt from any tax similar to the enterprise tax in Japan which may hereafter be imposed in Czechoslovakia.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to profits derived from the participation in a pool, a joint business or in an international operating agency.

*Article 9. Where*

- (a) An enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- (b) The same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

*Article 10. 1.* Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such dividends may be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the recipient is a company which owns at least 25 per cent of the voting shares of the company paying such dividends during the period of six months immediately preceding the date of payment of such dividends;
- (b) In all other cases, 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights assimilated to income from shares by the taxation laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the recipient of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, has in the other Contracting State, of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, a permanent establishment with which the holding by virtue of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected. In such a case, the provisions of article 7 shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company to persons who are not residents of that other Contracting State, or subject the company's

undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other Contracting State.

*Article 11.* 1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such interest may be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and derived by the Government of the other Contracting State including local authorities thereof, the Central Bank of that other Contracting State or any financial institution wholly owned by that Government, or by any resident of the other Contracting State with respect to debt-claims guaranteed or indirectly financed by the Government of that other Contracting State including local authorities thereof, the Central Bank of that other Contracting State or any financial institution wholly owned by that Government shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. The term "interest" as used in this article means income from Government securities, bonds or debentures, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in profits, and other debt-claims of every kind, and any excess of the amount repaid in respect of such debt-claims over the amount lent, as well as all other income assimilated to income from money lent by the taxation laws of the Contracting State in which the income arises.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the recipient of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, has in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises a permanent establishment with which the debt-claim from which the interest arises is effectively connected. In such a case, the provisions of article 7 shall apply.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a local authority or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

7. Where, owing to a special relationship between the payer and the recipient or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest paid, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In that case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

*Article 12.* 1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. (a) Industrial royalties may be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

(b) Cultural royalties shall be exempt from taxes in the Contracting State in which they arise.

3. (a) The term “industrial royalties” as used in paragraph 2 means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

(b) The term “cultural royalties” as used in paragraph 2 means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the recipient of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, has in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise a permanent establishment with which the right or property giving rise to the royalties is effectively connected. In such a case, the provisions of article 7 shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a local authority or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

6. Where, owing to a special relationship between the payer and the recipient or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In that case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

*Article 13.* 1. Gains from the alienation of immovable property, as defined in paragraph 2 of article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

2. Gains from the alienation of any property, other than immovable property, forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of any property, other than immovable property, pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing professional services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the whole enterprise) or of such a fixed base, may be taxed in that other Contracting State. However, gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic and any property, other than immovable



property, pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

3. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of any property other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

*Article 14.* 1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other independent activities of a similar character shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in that other Contracting State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

2. The term “professional services” includes, especially, independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

*Article 15.* 1. Subject to the provisions of articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting State if:

- (a) The recipient is present in that other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned; and
- (b) The remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of that other Contracting State; and
- (c) The remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in that other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this article, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

*Article 16.* Remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

*Article 17.* 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 14 and 15, income derived by an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, and a musician, or by an athlete, from his personal activities as such may be taxed in the Contracting State in which these activities of the entertainer or athlete are exercised.

Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that Contracting State if such activities are exercised by an individual, being a resident of the other

Contracting State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities as such of an entertainer or athlete accrues not to that entertainer or athlete himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or athlete are exercised.

Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that Contracting State if such income is derived from the activities exercised by an individual, being a resident of the other Contracting State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States and accrues to another person who is a resident of that other Contracting State.

*Article 18.* Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment and any annuity paid to such a resident shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

*Article 19.* 1. (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or local authority thereof, in the discharge of functions of a governmental nature, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

(b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other Contracting State and the recipient is a resident of that other Contracting State who:

- (i) Is a national of that other Contracting State; or
- (ii) Did not become a resident of that other Contracting State solely for the purpose of performing the services.

2. (a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds to which contributions are made by, a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to any individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

(b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the pensioner is a national of and a resident of that other Contracting State.

3. The provisions of articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof.

*Article 20.* 1. A professor or teacher who makes a temporary visit to a Contracting State for a period not exceeding two years for the purpose of teaching or conducting research at a university, college, school or other accredited educational institution, and who is, or immediately before such visit was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State in respect of remuneration for such teaching or research.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

*Article 21.* Payments or income received for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training by a student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education, training or the acquisition of his special technical experience and who is, or immediately before being so present was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax of the first-mentioned Contracting State, provided that such payments are made to him from outside that first-mentioned Contracting State or that such income is received in respect of his personal services performed in that first-mentioned Contracting State in an amount not in excess of 600,000 Japanese yen or its equivalent in Czechoslovak crowns during any taxable year.

*Article 22.* Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State which are not expressly mentioned in the foregoing articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

*Article 23.* Double taxation of income shall be avoided in the following manner:

(a) Where a resident of Japan derives income from Czechoslovakia and that income may be taxed in both Contracting States in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, the amount of Czechoslovak tax payable in respect of that income shall be allowed as a credit, in accordance with the provisions of the laws of Japan regarding the allowance as a credit against Japanese tax of tax payable in any country other than Japan, against the Japanese tax imposed on that resident. The amount of credit, however, shall not exceed that part of the Japanese tax which is appropriate to that income.

(b) (i) Where a resident of Czechoslovakia derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Japan, Czechoslovakia shall, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (ii), exempt such income from tax but may, in calculating tax on the remaining income of that person, apply the rate of tax which would have been applicable if the exempted income had not been so exempted.

(ii) Where a resident of Czechoslovakia derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of article 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17 of this Convention, may also be taxed in Japan, Czechoslovakia shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that person an amount equal to the tax paid in Japan. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the Czechoslovak tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is appropriate to the income which, in accordance with the provisions of articles 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17 of this Convention, was taxed in Japan.

(iii) Returns paid by the Czechoslovak state enterprises to the state budget shall be deemed as Czechoslovak tax.

*Article 24.* 1. The nationals of a Contracting State, whether or not they are residents of one of the Contracting States, shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other Contracting State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably

levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities.

This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.

4. In this article the term "taxation" means taxes of every kind and description.

*Article 25.* 1. Where a resident of a Contracting State considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Convention, he may, notwithstanding the remedies provided by the laws of those Contracting States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve that case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation not in accordance with this Convention.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in this Convention.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

*Article 26.* 1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for the carrying out of this Convention and of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is in accordance with this Convention. Any information so exchanged shall be treated as secret and shall not be disclosed to any persons or authorities other than those concerned with the assessment or collection of the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) To carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) To supply particulars which are not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State; or
- (c) To supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

*Article 27.* Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic or consular officials under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

*Article 28.* 1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Tokyo as soon as possible.

2. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification and shall be applicable in both Contracting States as respects income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which this Convention enters into force.

*Article 29.* This Convention shall continue in effect indefinitely but either Contracting State may, on or before the thirtieth day of June in any calendar year beginning after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, give to the other Contracting State, through the diplomatic channel, written notice of termination and, in such event, this Convention shall cease to be effective in both Contracting States as respects income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE in duplicate at Prague, on the 11th day of October, 1977, in the English language.

For Japan:

FUMIHIKO SUZUKI

For the Czechoslovak  
Socialist Republic:

HÁJEK