

**No. 21826**

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**FRANCE  
and  
CONGO**

**Agreement on co-operation in matters concerning the merchant marine. Signed at Brazzaville on 1 January 1974**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 12 April 1983.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
CONGO**

**Accord de coopération en matière de marine marchande.  
Signé à Brazzaville le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1974**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistré par la France le 12 avril 1983.*

[TRANSLATION—TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE  
MERCHANT MARINE BETWEEN THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and  
The Government of the People's Republic of the Congo, on the other,  
Have agreed on the following provisions:

TITLE I. RÉGIME OF OPERATION OF VESSELS

*Article 1.* In the determination of the nationality of vessels, nationals of one of the two Contracting Parties shall be equated with nationals of the other Party, both with regard to the conditions governing ownership of vessels and with regard to those governing nationality of crews.

*Article 2.* Vessels having the nationality of one of the two Contracting Parties shall enjoy in the ports of the other Party the same treatment as vessels having the nationality of the latter, with regard to customs formalities, the collection of port dues and taxes, and all facilities granted for operations in ports.

*Article 3.* In the ports, territorial waters and reserved waters of one of the two Contracting Parties, vessels having the nationality of the other Party shall conform to the legislation in force in the first-mentioned Party, with regard to fishing and the carriage of passengers and goods.

*Article 4.* The functions of master, officer of the watch or watch-keeper on board Congolese merchant vessels may be exercised by French seamen holding the requisite French certificate.

Reciprocally, Congolese seamen holding a Congolese certificate may be authorized to serve on French vessels in the capacity referred to above.

Equivalence between French certificates and Congolese certificates shall be established by common agreement between the two Governments.

*Article 5.* Seamen of one of the two Contracting Parties serving on vessels of the other Party may continue to benefit—together with family members who reside with them—from the retirement scheme and from coverage in the event of accident or illness provided under the legislation of the first Party.

Seamen of one of the Contracting Parties who perform on land, either on behalf of the other Party, or on behalf of shipping companies of the other Party, services that would entitle them to retirement pensions or benefits from the first Party, may also continue to benefit—together with family members who reside with them—from the retirement scheme and from coverage in the event of accident or illness provided under the legislation of that first Party.

The procedures governing implementation of the provisions of the first and second paragraphs of this article shall be determined, by common agreement, by the competent administrative authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 November 1981, i.e., the first day of the second month following the exchange of the instruments of approval, which took place at Paris on 30 September 1981, in accordance with article 8.

## TITLE II. CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE MERCHANT MARINE

*Article 6.* The People's Republic of the Congo and the French Republic shall continue to maintain bilateral relations in matters concerning the merchant marine and fishing, on the basis of the principle of respect for the sovereignty of each State and the principle of equality between the two States.

Either Contracting Party may request from the other any information or assistance that would enable it to solve problems which it faces in matters concerning the merchant marine and fishing, both at the administrative level and at the technical or economic level.

*Article 7.* The French Republic shall assist the People's Republic of the Congo, at its request, in the training of seamen and cadres who may be admitted to such institutions as French maritime schools, the maritime management school and the centre for maritime training and administrative documentation.

Congolese seamen and cadres in training at these establishments shall be authorized to carry out their practical training on French vessels or in the various units and subdivisions of the competent French administrative department.

In ports where there is no resident Congolese consul, the French maritime departments shall communicate directly with their Congolese counterparts on administrative questions concerning vessels and seamen.

*Article 8.* This Agreement, which supersedes and rescinds the Agreement of 15 July 1967, is concluded for a period of two years and may be renewed by tacit agreement, unless it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties. Notice of denunciation must be submitted through the diplomatic channel at least three 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 at Paris as soon as possible.

Either Contracting Party may at any time request the amendment of one or more provisions of this Agreement and the opening of negotiations to that end.

DONE at Brazzaville on 1 January 1974, in two original copies in the French language.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DENIAU  
Secretary of State to the  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government  
of the People's Republic  
of the Congo:

DAVID CHARLES GANAO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs