

**No. 23656**

---

**BULGARIA  
and  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to visa formalities. Sofia, 5 July 1978 and 30 March 1979**

*Authentic texts: English and Bulgarian.*

*Registered by Bulgaria on 12 December 1985.*

---

**BULGARIE  
et  
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux formalités de visas. Sofia, 5 juillet 1978 et 30 mars 1979**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et bulgare.*

*Enregistré par la Bulgarie le 12 décembre 1985.*

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND RELATING TO VISA FORMALITIES

### I

22137

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and has the honour to propose that, on the basis of reciprocity, with the aim of simplifying travel procedures and reducing the period required for visa procedures, and in order to facilitate wider travel by the citizens of the two countries, whether for personal or professional reasons, and in particular to promote the development of commercial and economic relations between the two countries, to encourage tourism, and to further the growth of contacts, the following arrangements relating to visa applications by nationals of the two countries should be introduced between the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

#### SHORT-TERM VISITORS

1. Each government will normally reply within 7 working days to visa applications for a stay in its country of up to 3 months.

#### VISAS ISSUED ON APPLICATION

2. Visas will normally be provided on demand, following application to the Embassy of the other country, to:

- (a) On the British side, all members of the Houses of Parliament; on the Bulgarian side, all members of the State Council, the Council of Ministers, all Deputy Ministers, and Members of the National Assembly; and dependants of persons in these categories, when travelling together with them;
- (b) All those invited to observe military manoeuvres;
- (c) All those in respect of whom advance arrangements have been made for visits between specific dates through the competent government organs in accordance with the provisions of the programme of cultural, educational and scientific exchanges periodically concluded between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria;
- (d) All applicants under 18 years of age;
- (e) Those wanting to visit near relatives (father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter) in the other country who are seriously ill or about to give birth, and those wishing to attend funerals of such near relatives. In such cases, satisfactory documentary proof will be furnished;
- (f) All diplomatic couriers whose names appear on lists approved by the other side.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 30 March 1979 by the exchange of the said notes.

## MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS

3. Where visas are authorised for members of the staff of HM Embassy Sofia and of the Bulgarian Embassy in London, to their wives and dependent relatives, and also to their domestic staff, such visas will be multiple entry visas valid for length of tour.

4. Where authorised following an application to the embassy of the other country, multiple entry visas valid for 12 months or for period of appointment, whichever is the shorter, will be granted to the following, and to their wives, dependent relatives and domestic staff:

- (a) Representatives and employees of British companies resident and working in Bulgaria and members of Bulgarian State Trading Organisations resident and working in the United Kingdom;
- (b) Representatives of British Airways resident in Bulgaria and representatives of the Bulgarian Airline resident in the United Kingdom;
- (c) British journalists accredited to Sofia and Bulgarian journalists resident in London.

5. Where authorised following an application to the embassy of the other country, multiple entry visas valid for 6 months will be granted to lorry drivers who can demonstrate their need to make repeated visits to the United Kingdom or Bulgaria. These visas will normally be valid only when the lorry driver in question is accompanied by his lorry.

6. Where a visa is authorised following an application to the embassy of the other country, both sides will be prepared to consider favourably, on the merits of each case, applications for multiple entry visas valid for up to 6 months from businessmen/members of foreign trade organisations and foreign trade enterprises who can demonstrate their need to make repeated visits to Bulgaria or the United Kingdom on commercial business.

7. Both sides will endeavour to complete the processing of applications which would in principle qualify for multiple entry visas within one calendar month.

8. In the case of lecturers from either country appointed under the provisions of Item II/11 of the United Kingdom/Bulgarian Programme of Scientific, Educational and Cultural Exchanges, and teachers of English at English-medium secondary schools in Bulgaria appointed under the same programme, the authorities concerned will use their best endeavours to facilitate the granting of entry and exit visas, on any occasion when they are required.

9. Both sides reserve the right in individual cases not to be bound by the periods specified above. In cases where a given visa application cannot be processed within the periods specified, each side will inform the other as soon as possible of the decision reached on the application.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy would be grateful to know whether the arrangements proposed above are acceptable to the Bulgarian Government.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria the assurances of its highest consideration.

British Embassy  
Sofia

5 July 1978