

No. 23744

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA
and
POLAND**

Protocol concerning the activities of the cultural and information centres at Prague and Warsaw (with exchange of letters). Signed at Warsaw on 27 March 1958

Termination

Authentic texts: Czech and Polish.

Protocol and certified statement registered by Czechoslovakia on 14 February 1986.

**TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
et
POLOGNE**

Protocole concernant les activités des centres culturels et d'information à Prague et à Varsovie (avec échange de lettres). Signé à Varsovie le 27 mars 1958

Abrogation

Textes authentiques : tchèque et polonais.

Protocole et déclaration certifiée enregistrés par la Tchécoslovaquie le 14 février 1986.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

PROTOCOL¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTRES AT PRAGUE AND WARSAW

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic, desiring to intensify cultural co-operation on the basis of the Agreement on cultural co-operation signed between the Czechoslovak Republic and the Polish People's Republic on 4 July 1947,² have decided to conclude this Protocol and have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1

The existing information centres — the Czechoslovak Information Centre at Warsaw and the Polish Information Centre at Prague — shall be converted to cultural and information centres.

Article 2

The task of the cultural and information centres shall be to contribute, to the greatest extent possible, to the strengthening of friendship between the peoples of the two countries and to their knowledge of each other's life and culture.

Article 3

In order to carry out that task, the cultural and information centres shall develop activities in the following areas:

(a) The *information service* shall be in continuous contact with the editorial offices of newspapers and periodicals and provide them with the necessary information about the centre's country, shall maintain a public library and reading room, shall organize press conferences and may publish its own bulletin.

(b) The *film service* shall engage in the projection of films and the lending of such films to various institutions for use without charge.

(c) The *music service* shall organize live concerts, concerts from gramophone records and tape recordings, and lectures on developments in the musical life of the centre's country.

(d) The *cultural and educational service* shall organize lectures, literary evenings, discussions on the subject of translation, language courses, exhibitions devoted to the cultural, economic and political life of the centre's country and — in compliance with the legislation in force — trips outside the capital with cultural and information programmes.

(e) The *distribution service* shall engage in the distribution and retail sale of books, sheet music, periodicals and printed matter, articles of folk art and artistic handicrafts, works of contemporary painting, graphic arts and sculpture, and

¹ Came into force on 27 March 1958 by signature, in accordance with article 14.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 25, p. 249.

gramophone records, with a view to popularizing the artistic creativity of the centre's country in the territory of the other Party's country.

Article 4

All the activities of the centres shall be discussed annually by the Mixed Czechoslovak-Polish Cultural Commission when it prepares the plan for the implementation of the Cultural Agreement.

Article 5

The Embassy of the Czechoslovak Republic of Warsaw shall supervise the activities of the Czechoslovak Cultural and Information Centre in the territory of Poland. The Embassy of the Polish People's Republic at Prague shall supervise the activities of the Polish Cultural and Information Centre in the territory of Czechoslovakia.

Article 6

Each Party shall provide the other Party's centre with all possible assistance in carrying out its tasks in the field of culture and information.

The competent authorities of each Party may, with the prior agreement of the other Party, supervise the financial management of the centre's distribution service.

Article 7

The two Parties shall provide each other with the premises necessary for the cultural and information activities of the centres. In the allocation of premises, especially with regard to their number and dimensions, each Party shall endeavour to take account of the other Party's wishes. The interior and technical furnishings of the centre, including the cultural and information materials, shall be supplied by the Party which operates the centre at its own expense. The furnishings and information materials shall, when imported into the territory of the other Party, be exempt from customs duties and other related charges. Cultural and information materials intended for free distribution shall also be exempt from customs duties when they are imported into the territory of the other Party.

Article 8

The scope of the exchange of the articles intended for sale at the centres, specified in article 3 (e), shall be determined annually at negotiations concerning reciprocal deliveries of goods as part of a special quota designated as "cultural goods to be sold at cultural and information centres". During the negotiations, the division of each Party's global quotas into specific groups of articles shall also be determined.

Article 9

Orders and deliveries of articles intended for sale at the cultural and information centres shall be handled exclusively by the competent foreign-trade enterprises of the two Parties, by-passing the organs of the domestic trade network.

Article 10

1. The fixing of prices for the cultural goods delivered and the settlement of reciprocal charges arising therefrom between the foreign-trade enterprises shall be

made in accordance with the relevant provisions of the agreement on reciprocal deliveries of goods and payments which is in force at the time.

2. The foreign-trade enterprises shall supply the imported cultural goods to the shops of the cultural and information centres at the official retail prices of the country in which the centre operates, diminished by a 25 per cent discount for the purpose of meeting the centres' own needs. Settlement of the debts owed to foreign-trade enterprises by the centres shall be effected through bank collection.

Each Party shall provide its cultural and information centre with the resources in the currency of the country in which the centre operates that are necessary to cover the charges for the initial deliveries made by the foreign-trade enterprises.

3. For the purposes of its activities, each cultural and information centre shall have a current account in local currency in the appropriate State bank.

Article 11

The cultural and information centres shall conduct sales operations on their own account and shall engage exclusively in retail trade. The centres shall deposit proceeds from sales in the current bank account mentioned in article 10, paragraph 3.

Article 12

Each Party shall itself cover the administrative costs and expenses related to the cultural and information activities of its centre.

If, in the course of a year, the sums derived from the discount mentioned in article 10, paragraph 2, exceed the costs of the centres' activities, the surplus may be used exclusively for the development of such activities, and no transfer of such surplus shall be permitted.

Article 13

Each centre may keep accounts in the language and in accordance with the accounting system of the State which establishes the centre. In their shops, the centres shall keep separate and full accounts.

Article 14

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force until the end of 1958. It shall be automatically extended for additional one-year periods if neither Party denounces it three months before the expiry of the current calendar year.

This Protocol was concluded at Warsaw on 27 March 1958, in duplicate in the Czech and Polish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Czechoslovak Republic:

[Signed]

KAREL VOJÁČEK

For the Government
of the Polish People's Republic:

[Signed]

MARIE WIERNA

I

CHAIRMAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION

Warsaw, 27 March 1958

Comrade Chairwoman,

With reference to the Protocol of 27 March 1958 concluded between the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic concerning the activities of the cultural and information centres at Prague and Warsaw, I have the honour to confirm to you that, in the course of negotiations, the following supplementary decisions were taken:

1. The quota of goods deliveries for the cultural and information centre of each Party, referred to in article 8, shall be 200,000 roubles for a trial period until the end of 1958.

2. It was agreed that, for each Party during the trial period until the end of 1958, the above-mentioned global quota shall be divided into the following specific groups of articles:

For the Czechoslovak Party:

- 75,000 roubles for books, sheet music, periodicals and printed matter;
- 50,000 roubles for articles of folk art, handicrafts and works of contemporary painting, graphic arts and sculpture;
- 75,000 roubles for gramophone records;

For the Polish Party:

- 100,000 roubles for books, sheet music, periodicals and printed matter;
- 50,000 roubles for articles of folk art, handicrafts and works of contemporary painting, graphic arts and sculpture;
- 50,000 roubles for gramophone records.

3. The goods intended for distribution at the centres as part of the quotas referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter shall, regardless of the scheduling and volume of the deliveries of individual consignments of goods, be put on sale in equal parts each month, with a view to preventing long interruptions in the distribution of particularly attractive articles.

4. This letter and your reply shall constitute an integral part of the Protocol between the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic concerning the activities of the cultural and information centres at Prague and Warsaw.

Pending your confirmation of the above decisions, please accept, Comrade Chairwoman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

KAREL VOJÁČEK

Comrade Marie Wierna
Chairwoman of the Polish delegation

II

CHAIRWOMAN OF THE POLISH DELEGATION

Warsaw, 27 March 1958

Comrade Chairman,

With reference to the Protocol of 27 March 1958 concluded between the Government of the Polish People's Republic and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic concerning the activities of the cultural and information centres at Warsaw and Prague, I have the honour to confirm to you that, in the course of negotiations, the following supplementary decisions were taken:

[See paragraphs 1 to 4 of letter I]

Pending your confirmation of the above provisions, please accept, Comrade Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MARIE WIERNA

Comrade Ambassador Karel Vojáček
Chairman of the Czechoslovak delegation

TERMINATION OF THE PROTOCOL OF 27 MARCH 1958 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTRES AT PRAGUE AND WARSAW¹

The above-mentioned Protocol ceased to have effect on 7 June 1983, the date of entry into force of the Agreement between the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic concerning the activities of cultural and information centres signed at Prague on 10 December 1982,² in accordance with article 14 of the latter Agreement.

¹ See p. 38 of this volume.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1351, p. 3.