

No. 27469

---

**AUSTRALIA  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement on human contacts and humanitarian cooperation (with protocol). Signed at Canberra on 15 February 1990**

*Authentic texts: English and Russian.*

*Registered by Australia on 30 July 1990.*

---

**AUSTRALIE  
et  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES  
SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif aux contacts humains et à la coopération dans le domaine humanitaire (avec protocole). Signé à Canberra le 15 février 1990**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et russe.*

*Enregistré par l'Australie le 30 juillet 1990.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SO- CIALIST REPUBLICS ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND HUMANI- TARIAN CO-OPERATION

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Desirous of further strengthening friendly relations, trust and mutual understanding between the peoples of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Australia;

Acknowledging that the development in human contacts and humanitarian co-operation between the peoples of both countries and the solution of human problems would facilitate the attainment of these goals;

Convinced of the necessity, notwithstanding any differences in their positions and views, of effective human contacts and humanitarian co-operation as factors for peace and international security;

Recognising their international obligations including under the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>3</sup> as well as Acting in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;<sup>4</sup>

Have agreed as follows:

### *Article 1*

1. The Contracting Parties shall give the utmost encouragement to the development of humanitarian co-operation between the two countries. To attain this goal the Contracting Parties shall encourage the expansion and maintenance of contacts between people, establishments and organisations, and provide the opportunity for such contacts.

2. Contacts between people, establishments and organisations in accordance with this Agreement shall include:

- (a) Visits for family purposes, marriage and other private reasons;
- (b) Visits for professional and business purposes and tourism;
- (c) Movement for permanent residence for the purpose of family reunification;
- (d) Contacts in such fields as culture, science, religion, education, sport and the mass media.

3. In developing contacts under this Agreement the Contracting Parties shall not distinguish between persons on the ground of their origin, social and property status, race, nationality, colour, sex, education, language or religion.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 15 February 1990 by signature, in accordance with article 13.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 999, p. 171; vol. 1057, p. 407 (rectification of authentic Spanish text); vol. 1059, p. 451 (corrigendum to vol. 999).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 993, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I*, p. 71.

4. Contacts provided for under this Agreement shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in each country. The Contracting Parties shall ensure that restrictions provided for by such laws and regulations are consistent with their international obligations, including their obligations under this Agreement.

#### *Article 2*

Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to reach a decision on all visa applications for entry to its territory as expeditiously as possible, paying special attention to applications of an urgent humanitarian character.

#### *Article 3*

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that persons from the other country settled permanently in its territory for a purpose envisaged by this Agreement shall enjoy the same economic and social opportunities as are enjoyed by its own citizens subject to the laws and administrative regulations of the state of residence.

#### *Article 4*

For the purpose of this Agreement, each Contracting Party shall ensure rapid delivery of correspondence, including personal mail, and the conditions necessary for rapid telephone calls, including the use and development of direct dialing systems, and other generally available means of communication and respect the privacy of all such communications.

#### *Article 5*

Seeking to undertake the contacts referred to in this Agreement shall not modify rights and obligations in accordance with the purposes of this Agreement, of the person concerned or his or her family, particularly with reference to employment, housing, status of residence, support of dependants, social, economic and educational privileges as well as other such rights and obligations stemming from the laws and administrative regulations of the Contracting State.

#### *Article 6*

The Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitments to encourage and facilitate contacts between representatives of establishments, organisations and enterprises engaged in trade and economic relations as envisaged in the agreements and arrangements between the Parties.

#### *Article 7*

The Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitments to encourage contacts for the purpose of developing co-operation in culture, education and science in accordance with the agreements between them.

#### *Article 8*

The Contracting Parties shall:

- (a) Facilitate greater opportunity for journalists of their two countries to communicate personally with their sources of information, including organisations and official establishments, for the purposes of reporting events, issues and people's lives;

- (b) Encourage contacts between people working in the mass media, including the facilitation of meetings between representatives and specialists of the mass media of both countries.

*Article 9*

The Contracting Parties shall encourage contacts and exchanges between representatives of women's movements and organisations and shall exchange information on their policies regarding women and on the implementation of those policies.

*Article 10*

The Contracting Parties shall encourage exchanges and contacts between young people and between youth organisations, as well as encouraging activities by youth and for youth in culture, education, sport and other similar activities.

*Article 11*

The Contracting Parties shall promote opportunities for religious faiths, establishments and organisations and their representatives to establish and maintain personal contacts and relations with religious faiths, establishments and organisations and their representatives, including travel, pilgrimages and meetings and shall allow them within the field of their activity to acquire, receive and carry with them religious publications and religious objects for their own use.

*Article 12*

The Contracting Parties shall hold annual consultations on matters arising from the implementation of this Agreement unless they mutually arrange other times. In the course of these consultations either Contracting Party may also propose amendments to this Agreement which shall be subject to consideration by the Contracting Parties.

*Article 13*

This Agreement shall enter into force from the date of its signature and shall remain in force for six months from the day upon which either of the Contracting Parties notifies the other through diplomatic channels of its wish to terminate the Agreement.

DONE at Canberra on the fifteenth day of February 1990 in duplicate, in the English and Russian languages, each text being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of Australia:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>1</sup>

For the Government  
of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Signed by Gareth Evans — Signé par Gareth Evans.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by I. A. Rogachev — Signé par I. A. Rogachev.

PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND HUMANITARIAN CO-OPERATION

The Government of Australia and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, wishing to provide for the effective operation of the Agreement and subject to its provisions, have agreed as follows:

1. Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to convey a decision on the issue of visas for entry to its territory within the shortest possible time and normally within the time periods specified from the date of receipt of a visa application for the following categories of applicants:

- (a) Persons intending to visit for business or academic purposes other than for employment or study: no more than 10 working days;
- (b) Persons intending to visit for other purposes other than for employment or study: no more than 20 working days;
- (c) Persons intending to obtain temporary employment or to study: no more than 15 working days subject to health checking requirements where appropriate; and
- (d) Persons intending to pass through their territory en route to another destination who will remain on their territory for no more than 72 hours, provided that the persons hold confirmed tickets to the place of destination and a visa of the country of destination: no more than 10 working days.

2. Each Contracting Party shall consider in a positive spirit the question of issuing multiple reentry visas valid for one year to businessmen and personnel of relevant firms, enterprises and organisations referred to in Article 6 of the Agreement intending to visit its territory.

3. In all cases of urgency or emergency, and particularly in such special circumstances as illness of a family member or death, each Contracting Party shall endeavour to issue visas within the shortest period.

4. Applications for entry into or exit from the territory of the Contracting Parties for permanent residence shall be considered in a short period of time but in any case within no more than 6 months from the date of receipt of the application if there are no compelling reasons for extending this period.

5. Each Contracting Party shall supply information about the procedures relating to entry into and exit from their territories and shall update this information if necessary.

6. This Protocol shall enter into force on the same day as the Agreement and shall remain in force for so long as the present Agreement remains in force.

7. The Contracting Parties may agree upon amendments to this Protocol necessary for effective implementation of the Agreement.

8. Communications between the Contracting Parties on the operation of this Protocol shall be transmitted through diplomatic channels or in the course of consultations provided for by the Agreement.

DONE at Canberra on the fifteenth day of February 1990 in duplicate in the English and Russian languages, each text being equally authoritative.

For the Government  
of Australia:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>1</sup>

For the Government  
of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Signed by Gareth Evans — Signé par Gareth Evans.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by I. A. Rogachev — Signé par I. A. Rogachev.