

No. 27094

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**UNITED NATIONS  
(OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES)  
and  
SWEDEN**

**Agreement regarding the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representative for Nordic countries to be situated in Stockholm. Signed at Geneva on 31 August 1985 and at Stockholm on 30 September 1985**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered ex officio on 1 February 1990.*

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
(HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS)  
et  
SUÈDE**

**Accord relatif à l'établissement à Stockholm d'un bureau du représentant des pays nordiques du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés. Signé à Genève le 31 août 1985 et à Stockholm le 30 septembre 1985**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistré d'office le 1<sup>er</sup> février 1990.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEEES  
REGARDING THE OFFICE OF THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR NORDIC COUNTRIES TO BE SITUATED IN  
STOCKHOLM

THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

CONSIDERING that Sweden is a party to the 1951 United Nations  
Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>2</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto;<sup>3</sup>

CONSIDERING that the Government of Sweden (hereinafter referred to as  
"the Government") and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
(hereinafter referred to as the "High Commissioner" or, alternatively,  
"UNHCR") have agreed to establish a Regional Office of the UNHCR (hereinafter  
referred to as the "UNHCR Regional Office") for Denmark, Finland, Iceland,  
Norway and Sweden (hereinafter referred to as the "Nordic countries"), located  
in Stockholm;

CONSIDERING that the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of  
the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on  
13 February 1946<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the "General Convention"), to  
which Sweden acceded on 28 August 1947, is applicable to UNHCR, a subsidiary  
organ of the United Nations established pursuant to Article 22 of the Charter  
of the United Nations as an integral part of the United Nations;

CONSIDERING that it is desirable to regulate further certain matters  
relating to the establishment of the UNHCR Regional Office in Stockholm;

NOW THEREFORE the Government and the UNHCR have entered into this  
agreement through the undersigned representative of the Government and the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 January 1986, the date agreed upon in an exchange of notes (of 20 and 24 December 1985) by which the Parties notified each other of the completion of their required procedures, in accordance with section 17.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, p. 137.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, p. 267.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 15, and vol. 90, p. 327 (corrigendum to vol. 1, p. 18).

Article I  
FUNCTIONS

Section 1

The UNHCR Regional Office will exercise in Sweden and in the other Nordic countries the functions assigned to it by the High Commissioner pursuant to Art. 35 of the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Statute of the Office of UNHCR and the subsequent General Assembly resolutions relating to the provision of international protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Section 2

The Government shall - in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees - grant the Regional UNHCR Representative and his staff free access in Sweden to refugees falling under the UNHCR mandate and persons seeking asylum or recognition of their refugee status.

Article II  
STATUS OF THE UNHCR REGIONAL OFFICE

Section 3

The premises of the UNHCR Regional Office and the residences of the Representative, his Deputy and other internationally recruited UNHCR staff shall be inviolable.

Section 4

The appropriate Swedish authorities shall exercise due diligence to ensure the security and protection of the premises of the UNHCR Regional Office and its staff.

Section 5

The UNHCR Regional Office shall have the right to import into Sweden free of tax or import duties its official vehicles, office furniture, machinery and

supplies, including UNHCR public information material for distribution inside the Nordic countries.

#### Section 6

The UNHCR Regional Office shall be incorporated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs into the Diplomatic list.

### Article III FACILITIES AND SERVICES

#### Section 7

The Government shall assist the Regional Office in finding appropriate office premises.

#### Section 8

The competent Swedish authorities shall do their utmost to ensure that the UNHCR Regional Office is at all times supplied with the necessary public services, and that such public services are supplied on equitable terms. The UNHCR Regional Office shall enjoy telephone, radio/telegraph, telex and mail facilities on the same conditions that are normally accorded to diplomatic missions.

### Article IV OFFICIALS OF THE UNHCR

#### Section 9

Officials of the UNHCR Regional Office, irrespective of their rank or nationality, shall enjoy within and with respect to Sweden the following privileges and immunities:

- (a) Immunity from legal process of any kind in respect of words spoken or written, and of acts performed by them in their official capacity,

such immunity to continue notwithstanding that the persons concerned may have ceased to be officials of UNHCR;

- (b) Immunity from seizure of their official baggage;
- (c) Exemption from taxation in respect of the salaries, emoluments and indemnities paid to them by UNHCR;
- (d) Exemption, with respect to themselves, their spouses and minor children from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
- (e) Immunity from national service obligations;
- (f) The same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to officials of comparable rank forming part of diplomatic missions. In particular, UNHCR officials shall have the right, at the termination of their assignment to Sweden, to take out of Sweden through authorized channels, without prohibition or restriction, their funds in the same currency and up to the same amounts as they had brought into Sweden as well as any other funds for the lawful possession of which they can show good cause;
- (g) The same protection and repatriation facilities with respect to themselves, their spouses, their minor children and other members of their households as are accorded in time of international crisis to officials of comparable rank forming part of diplomatic missions;
- (h) Upon moving to Sweden at the time of first taking up their appointment the right to import for personal use, free of duty and other levies on imports, their furniture and personal effects in one or more separate shipments, including a motor vehicle.

#### Section 10

In addition to the privileges and immunities specified in Section 9 the Regional Representative of the High Commissioner and his Deputy, unless they are of Swedish nationality, shall enjoy, with respect to themselves, their spouses and minor children the privileges and immunities, exemptions and

facilities normally accorded to diplomatic envoys of comparable rank. They shall for this purpose be incorporated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs into the Diplomatic list.

#### Section 11

The privileges and immunities for which provision is made in this Agreement are granted solely for the purpose of carrying out effectively the aims and purposes of the UNHCR Regional Office. The High Commissioner may waive the immunity of any staff member whenever in his opinion such immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of his Office.

#### Section 12

Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities accorded by this Agreement, it is the duty of all persons enjoying such privileges and immunities to respect the laws and regulations of Sweden.

### Article V GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Section 13

The provisions of the General Convention shall fully apply to UNHCR, and the provisions of this Agreement shall be complementary to those of the General Convention. In so far as any provisions of this Agreement and any provision of the General Convention relate to the same subject matter, the two provisions shall, where possible, be treated as complementary, so that both provisions shall be applicable and neither shall narrow the effect of the other.

#### Section 14

The Agreement shall be construed in the light of the primary purpose of enabling the UNHCR Regional Office fully and efficiently to discharge its responsibilities and fulfil its purposes.

## Section 15

Consultations with respect to modifications of this Agreement shall be entered into at the request of either party. Any such modifications shall be by mutual consent.

## Section 16

This Agreement may be terminated by agreement between the two parties. In the event of the UNHCR Regional Office being removed from the territory of Sweden this agreement shall, after the period reasonably required for such transfer and for the disposal of the property of UNHCR in Sweden, cease to be in force.

## Section 17

This Agreement shall be approved by the parties in accordance with their own procedures. It shall enter into force on an agreed date when the parties have notified each other that the procedures necessary to this end have been completed.

DONE at Geneva and Stockholm on 31st August 1985 and on 30th September 1985 respectively.

For the Government  
of Sweden:

[Signed]

LENNART BODSTRÖM  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees:

[Signed]

POUL HARTLING  
United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees