

No. 30282

**FRANCE
and
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Agreement on cooperation relating to public archives. Signed
at Paris on 12 November 1992**

Authentic texts: French and Russian.

Registered by France on 27 September 1993.

**FRANCE
et
FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE**

**Accord sur la coopération en matière d'archives publiques.
Signé à Paris le 12 novembre 1992**

Textes authentiques : français et russe.

Enregistré par la France le 27 septembre 1993.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON COOPERATION RELATING TO PUBLIC ARCHIVES

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and the Government of the Russian Federation, on the other,

Considering the spirit of friendship and cooperation traditionally existing between the two States, once again solemnly reaffirmed in the Treaty between France and Russia concluded on 7 February 1992,²

Stressing the importance for the strengthening of this friendship and cooperation of a constantly improved mutual knowledge of the history and culture of the two countries,

Considering that one of the best means of achieving this result is to facilitate access to documents illustrating this history and culture, in particular the documents in public archives, that is to say, the archives produced by all the State bodies of each country,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall develop their cooperation in relation to public archives on the basis of total reciprocity and with respect for the national legislation of each country.

Article 2

The Parties recognize, in accordance with international practice, the inalienable nature of public archives, and undertake to restore any archive documents in the possession of one of the Parties which might belong to the other Party.

The modalities for the restitution of such documents shall be determined by special agreements concluded between the archive administrations of the two Parties in accordance with this Agreement.

Article 3

Each Party shall transmit to the other Party a list of reference materials concerning archive documents published as of the date of signature of this Agreement.

This list shall be updated annually.

Each Party may request from the other Party any reference materials which are of interest to it.

¹ Came into force on 12 November 1992 by signature, in accordance with article 10.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1728, No. I-31075.

Article 4

With a view to building up their national archives by adding documents containing information on the history of their countries and peoples, the two Parties shall exchange copies of such documents, on the basis of equivalence.

Article 5

The two Parties shall undertake joint publication of archive documents and shall organize documentary exhibitions on the history of relations between their two countries.

Article 6

The two Parties shall exchange legislative and statutory texts governing the organization and operation of their archive institutions, their scientific and methodological literature on archive matters and publications of archive documents by their respective archive institutions.

Article 7

The two Parties shall develop and improve their exchanges of experience in archive matters in those areas which are of interest to them.

To that end, the two Parties shall exchange information on archive problems, and shall organize exchanges of archive specialists on the basis of reciprocity and without payment in currency.

The specific details of these exchanges shall be determined by arrangement between the relevant archive institutions of the two Parties.

Article 8

Each Party shall offer assistance to researchers of the other Party in order to facilitate their research in its public archives.

To that end, the researchers of each of the two Parties shall enjoy access to archive documents and to all the works of reference of the public archives of the other Party, whether published or not, in accordance with national legislation.

Article 9

This agreement shall concern the public archives of the two Parties, namely:

- In the case of the French Republic, the archives which are under the direction of the Directorate of Archives of France, the Directorate of Archives and Documentation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Historical Services of the Ministry of Defence;
- In the case of the Russian Federation, the State archives which are under the direction of the Committee on Archives of the Government of the Russian Federation, including the archives of a military and historical nature, and the archives which are under the direction of the Historical and Documentary Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Article 10

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature. It shall be valid for a period of five years and shall be automatically renewed for successive

periods of five years unless one of the Parties denounces it by giving written notification six months prior to the expiry of the current period.

DONE at Paris, on 12 November 1992, in two copies, each in the French and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the French Republic:

ROLAND DUMAS

For the Government
of the Russian Federation:

ANDRÉ KOZYREV
