

## TREATY SERIES. No. 19.

1908.

## NOTES EXCHANGED

BETWEEN

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWEDEN  
AND NORWAY

RELATIVE TO

THE AGREEMENT OF JULY 12, 1881, FOR  
THE MUTUAL RELIEF OF DISTRESSED  
SEAMEN.

November 1907 to May 1908.

*Sweden Nov. 28/Dec. 14, 1907**Norway Nov. 28, 1907, May 4, 1908*

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.  
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*November 1907 to May 1908.*

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No. 1.

*His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Stockholm to the Swedish Minister  
for Foreign Affairs.*

M. le Ministre, *Stockholm, November 28, 1907.*

His Majesty's Consul in Christiania has requested instructions from His Majesty's Government as to whether, in their opinion, the Agreement concluded on the 12th July, 1881, between the Government of Great Britain on one side, and the Government of Sweden and Norway on the other side, for the mutual relief of distressed seamen, would, since the dissolution of the Union, entitle distressed Swedish seamen who have served on British ships and who remain behind in Norway to relief at the hands of a British Consul there.

The Board of Trade, to whom the question was referred, replied that they assumed that under the present altered conditions each country constitutes a third State, and that a Swedish seaman found in distress in Norway would, subject to the terms of the Agreement of 1881, be entitled to relief and repatriation.

As some doubt as to the present status under the Agreement would seem to exist, I have the honour, by the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inquire of your Excellency whether the Royal Swedish Government recognize the application to Norway of the term "third State" in the 1881 Agreement, and whether they would be willing, in order to clear up all doubt as to the application of the Agreement, to place their recognition on record by an exchange of notes with His Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT G. DERING.

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## No. 2.

*His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Christiania to the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

M. le Ministre, *Christiania, November 28, 1907.*

His Majesty's Government are anxious to ascertain the views of the Norwegian Government with regard to the application, since the dissolution of the Union of Norway and Sweden, of the Agreement concluded on the 12th July, 1881, between the Governments of Great Britain and of Sweden and Norway for the mutual relief of distressed seamen.

In accordance with instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inquire of your Excellency whether the Norwegian Government recognize the application to Sweden of the term "third State" in this Agreement, and whether they would be willing to put this on record by an exchange of notes.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) W. G. MAX MÜLLER.

## No. 3.

*The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty's Minister at Stockholm.*

*Ministère des Affaires Étrangères,  
Stockholm, le 12 Décembre, 1907.*

M. le Ministre,

PAR une lettre, en date du 28 Novembre dernier, Mr. Dering a bien voulu m'informer que des doutes s'étaient élevés sur le point de savoir si l'Arrangement conclu entre la Suède et la Norvège d'une part, et le Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande d'autre part, le 12 Juillet, 1881, accorde, après la dissolution de l'Union entre la Suède et la Norvège, à un marin Suédois ayant servi à bord d'un navire Britannique et délaissé en Norvège, le droit d'assistance de la part d'un Consul Britannique dans ce dernier État. En même temps Mr. Dering a, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, demandé si le Gouvernement du Roi reconnaît que le terme "pays tiers" dans l'Arrangement en question s'applique à la Norvège et si le Gouvernement du Roi, en vue d'éclaircir chaque doute sur ce point, était prêt à confirmer par un échange de notes avec le Gouvernement Britannique.

En réponse, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, d'après l'opinion du Gouvernement du Roi, il ne saurait subsister aucun doute relatif à ce que le terme "pays tiers" doit s'appliquer à la Norvège.

Veuillez agréer, &c.  
(Signé) TROLLE.

(Translation.)

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Stockholm,  
December 12, 1907.*

M. le Ministre,

IN a letter dated the 28th November last, Mr. Dering informed me that some doubt had arisen as to whether the Agreement concluded on the 12th July, 1881, between Sweden and Norway on the one side, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on the other side, would, since the dissolution of the Union between Sweden and Norway, entitle a Swedish seaman who had served on a British ship and had been left behind in Norway to relief at the hands of a British Consul in the latter State. At the same time, Mr. Dering, by direction of his Government, inquired whether the King's Government recognize the application to Norway of the term "third State" in the Agreement in question, and whether the King's Government would be willing, in order to clear up any doubt on the point, to confirm this view by an exchange of notes with the British Government.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that, in the opinion of the King's Government, there can be no doubt that the expression "third State" applies to Norway.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) TROLLE.

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No. 4.

*The Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty's  
Minister at Christiania.*

*Ministère des Affaires Étrangères,  
Kristiania, le 8 Avril, 1908.*

M. le Ministre,

PAR une lettre, en date du 28 Novembre dernier, M. Max Müller a bien voulu exprimer à M. Lövlund le désir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de savoir l'opinion du Gouvernement Norvégien au sujet de l'application à la Suède, après la dissolution de l'Union entre la Norvège et la Suède, de l'expression "un pays tiers" dans la Déclaration conclue le 12 Juillet, 1881, entre les Gouvernements de Grande-Bretagne d'une part, et de Norvège et de Suède de l'autre part, concernant l'assistance à donner aux marins délaissés.

En réponse de cette communication, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le Gouvernement Norvégien est d'avis que l'expression "un pays tiers" dans la Déclaration doit comprendre la Suède.

Si votre Gouvernement partage cette manière de voir, je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir m'en donner, en son nom, l'assurance afin que l'interprétation en question serait à l'avenir officiellement constatée à titre de réciprocité.

Veuillez agréer, &c.  
(Signé) W. CHRISTOPHERSEN.

(Translation.)

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Christiania,*M. le Ministre, *April 8, 1908.*

IN a note dated the 28th November last, Mr. Max Müller expressed to M. Löyland the desire of His Britannic Majesty's Government to learn the views of the Norwegian Government with regard to the application to Sweden, since the dissolution of the Union between Norway and Sweden, of the term "a third State" in the Declaration concluded on the 12th July, 1881, between the Government of Great Britain on the one side, and the Government of Norway and Sweden on the other side, respecting the relief of distressed seamen.

In reply to that communication, I have the honour to inform you that the Norwegian Government is of opinion that the term "a third State" in the Declaration includes Sweden.

Should your Government agree with this view, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to give me, in their name, an assurance to that effect, in order that such interpretation may, for the future, be officially and reciprocally placed on record.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. CHRISTOPHERSEN.

No. 5.

*His Majesty's Minister at Christiania to the Norwegian Minister  
for Foreign Affairs.*

M. le Ministre,

*Christiania, May 4, 1908.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's note of the 8th April regarding the question as to the application to Sweden of the term "third State" in the Agreement dated the 12th July, 1881, between the Governments of Great Britain and Sweden and Norway for the mutual relief of distressed seamen, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am authorized by my Government to give an assurance to the Norwegian Government that, in their opinion, the term "third State" in the above-mentioned Agreement should include Sweden.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Signed) A. HERBERT.