



Treaty Series No. 27 (1961)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Belgian Government

concerning the acceptance of the
British Visitor's Passport for travel between
the United Kingdom and Belgium

Brussels, February 21, 1961

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
May 1961*

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRITISH VISITOR'S PASSPORT
FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
BELGIUM**

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Brussels to the Belgian Minister for
Foreign Affairs*

No. 73

British Embassy,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Brussels, February 21, 1961.

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement constituted by the Exchange of Notes of the 1st of April, 1960⁽¹⁾ between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium concerning arrangements to facilitate travel between Belgium and the United Kingdom, including certain British overseas dependent territories.

I have to inform Your Excellency that a simplified form of passport, known as a British Visitor's Passport, will be available for issue from the 15th of March, 1961 to British subjects, citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A British Visitor's Passport will be valid for one year from the date of issue. An applicant for a British Visitor's Passport will not be required by the United Kingdom authorities to produce documentary evidence of his identity and national status, but he will be required to sign a declaration that he is a British subject, citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies. A specimen of the British Visitor's Passport is attached as an Annex to this Note⁽²⁾.

I have now the honour to propose, on the instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium conclude an Agreement in the following terms:

1. The Government of Belgium undertakes to accept a valid British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport and to permit holders to enter and stay in Belgium subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) A visit to Belgium shall not exceed three months and shall not be for employment.
 - (b) A visitor who enters Belgium on presentation of a valid British Visitor's Passport and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than three months shall be required to obtain a passport bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" before the end of the three months' period.

(1) "Treaty Series No. 40 (1960)", Cmnd. 1091

(2) Not reproduced

- (c) Holders of British Visitor's Passports proceeding to Belgium shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of Belgium relating to the entry and residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners. Travellers who are unable to satisfy the competent authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations may be refused leave to enter or to land.
- (d) The right is reserved to the competent authorities of Belgium to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in Belgium in any case where that person is regarded as undesirable by those authorities or is otherwise ineligible under the general policy of the Government of Belgium relating to the entry or stay of foreigners.
- (e) The Government of Belgium may suspend the foregoing provisions in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public order and/or national security, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the Government of the United Kingdom through the diplomatic channel.
2. The Government of the United Kingdom undertake to take back into their territory at any time persons having entered the territory of Belgium under the terms of this Agreement.
3. The Agreement shall enter into force on the 15th of March, 1961, and shall remain in force for a period of one year. Unless the Agreement is denounced by either Government at least two months before the expiry of this period, it shall thereafter remain in operation for an indefinite period, it being understood that either Government may at any time denounce the Agreement upon giving to the other six months' notice of their intention to do so.

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to the Government of Belgium I have the honour to suggest that the present Note, together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense, should be considered as placing on record the Agreement of the two Governments in this matter.

I avail, etc.

JOHN NICHOLLS.

No. 2

*The Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador
at Brussels*

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères,

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Bruxelles, le 21 février 1961.

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre de ce jour, no. 73, par laquelle Votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire savoir que le Gouvernement britannique est disposé à conclure avec le Gouvernement belge un arrangement dans les termes suivants:



- (1) Le Gouvernement du Royaume de Belgique s'engage à accepter comme passeport valable le "British Visitor's Passport" en cours de validité et d'autoriser les porteurs de ce document à entrer en Belgique sous réserve des conditions suivantes:
 - (a) Le séjour en Belgique ne dépassera pas trois mois et n'aura pas comme but l'exercice d'une activité lucrative;
 - (b) Le voyageur qui entre en Belgique sous le couvert d'un "British Visitor's Passport" en cours de validité et qui obtient, par la suite, l'autorisation d'y séjourner plus de trois mois, sera mis en demeure de se procurer un passeport portant sur la couverture l'inscription "British Passport" avant l'expiration de la période de trois mois;
 - (c) Les porteurs du "British Visitor's Passport" se rendant en Belgique devront se conformer aux lois et règlements en vigueur en Belgique en ce qui concerne l'entrée et la résidence (temporaire ou permanente) l'emploi de la main d'œuvre étrangère ou l'activité professionnelle des étrangers. Les voyageurs qui ne seront pas en mesure de prouver de façon satisfaisante aux autorités compétentes qu'ils se conforment à ces lois et règlements pourront se voir refuser l'autorisation d'entrée ou de débarquement.
 - (d) Les autorités belges compétentes se réservent le droit de refuser l'autorisation d'entrée ou de séjour à toute personne qu'elles considéreraient comme indésirable ou inacceptable à d'autres égards, conformément à la politique générale du Gouvernement belge en matière d'entrée ou de séjour des étrangers.
 - (e) Le Gouvernement belge pourra suspendre temporairement, en tout ou en partie, les dispositions qui précèdent, pour des raisons d'ordre public et/ou de sécurité nationale; la suspension sera notifiée immédiatement au Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni par la voie diplomatique.
- (2) Le Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni s'engage à réadmettre sur son territoire, en tout temps, les personnes entrées en Belgique en vertu des dispositions du présent accord.
- (3) L'accord entrera en vigueur le 15 mars 1961 et restera en vigueur pour une période d'un an. A moins qu'il ne soit dénoncé par un des Gouvernements au moins deux mois avant l'expiration de cette période, il restera en vigueur pour une période indéterminée, étant entendu que chaque Gouvernement peut, en tout temps, le dénoncer moyennant un préavis de six mois.

J'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de Votre Excellence que le Gouvernement belge est d'accord sur les dispositions ci-dessus et qu'il considère la lettre de Votre Excellence et la présente réponse comme constituant un accord entre nos deux Gouvernements.

Je saisis, etc.,

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,
P. WIGNY.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs,

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Brussels, February 21, 1961.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of to-day's date, No. 73, in which Your Excellency was good enough to inform me that the British Government is prepared to conclude with the Belgian Government an Agreement in the following terms:

[Provisions 1, 2 and 3 of No. 1]

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Belgian Government agrees with the above provisions and that it considers Your Excellency's Note and the present reply as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments.

I avail, etc.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs,

P. WIGNY.

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