



Treaty Series No. 42 (1947)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom
and the Government of Norway

concerning the Transmission by Post of Diplomatic Correspondence

Oslo, 23rd December, 1946/15th January, 1947

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

LONDON

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY
CONCERNING THE TRANSMISSION BY POST OF DIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENCE

Oslo, 23rd December, 1946/15th January, 1947

No. 1

Sir Laurence Collier to M. Halvard Lange

British Embassy,

Oslo, 23rd December, 1946

Your Excellency,

WITH reference to your note of 27th November last and to the subsequent conversation between M. Willett and Miss Lamb, regarding the proposed agreement between the Norwegian Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the transmission by post of diplomatic correspondence, I have the honour to inform you that my Government have approved the revised draft of the said agreement, which now reads as follows:—

“(1) His Majesty's Government agree to accept diplomatic bags from the Norwegian Embassy in London and to convey them through British postal channels for further transmission through Norwegian postal channels to the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Similarly, the Royal Norwegian Government agree to accept diplomatic bags from His Majesty's Embassy at Oslo and to convey them through Norwegian postal channels for further transmission through British postal channels to the Foreign Office in London.

“His Majesty's Government also agree to accept from the Norwegian postal authorities diplomatic bags addressed by the Royal Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London and to convey them through British postal channels to their destination. Similarly, the Royal Norwegian Government agree to accept from the British postal authorities diplomatic bags addressed by His Majesty's Government to the British Embassy at Oslo and to convey them through the Norwegian postal authorities to their destination.

“(2) The bags shall be addressed to the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs or to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, or to the respective Ambassadors or Chargés d'Affaires as the case may be. They shall bear the appropriate seals and may be locked if desired, the keys resting in the custody of the respective Foreign Offices and Embassies.

“(3) There shall be no charge for the acceptance or conveyance of these diplomatic bags, which shall enjoy all the immunities customarily granted by the British and Norwegian authorities respectively to official mails and shall be inviolable.

“(4) In accordance with the requirements of the International Postal Regulations, the weight of each bag shall not exceed 66 lb. (30 kg.) and the dimensions of each bag shall not exceed 49 inches (124 centimetres) by 26 inches (66 centimetres).”

2. If the present draft is agreeable to the Norwegian Government, I would propose that this note and your Excellency's reply thereto should serve to place on record the agreement between our respective Governments, which would enter into force from the date of your reply.

I avail, &c.
(Sd.) L. COLLIER.

No. 2

M. Halvard Lange to Sir Laurence Collier

Det Kgl. Utenriksdepartement,

Herr Ambassadør,

Oslo, 15. januar 1947

JEG har den ære å erkjenne mottakelsen av Deres note av 23. desember f.å. med revidert forslag til en avtale mellom Hans Britanniske Majestets Regjering i det Forente Kongerike Storbritannia og Nord-Irland og den Kgl. norske Regjering om utveksling av lukket diplomatpost mellom det Britiske Utenriksministerium og Hans Britanniske Majestets Ambassade på den ene side, og mellom den Kgl. norske Regjering og den Kgl. norske Ambassade i London på den annen side.

Under henvisning hertil har jeg den ære å meddele Dem at min Regjering har godkjent bestemmelsene i avtaleutkastet, som følger:

“(1) Hans Britanniske Majestets Regjering er rede til å motta lukket diplomatpost fra den Kgl. norske Ambassade i London og å befordre den ved det britiske postvesens formidling for videre formidling av det norske postvesen til det Kgl. norske Utenriksdepartement. På samme måte er den Kgl. norske Regjering rede til å motta lukket diplomatpost fra Hans Britanniske Majestets Ambassade i Oslo og å befordre den ved det norske postvesens formidling for videre formidling av det britiske postvesen til det Britiske Utenriksministerium i London.

“Hans Britanniske Majestets Regjering er likeledes rede til å motta fra det norske postvesen lukket diplomatpost adressert av det Kgl. norske Utenriksdepartement til den Kgl. norske Ambassade i London og å befordre den ved det britiske postvesens formidling til dens bestemmelsessted. På samme måte er den Kgl. norske Regjering rede til å motta fra det britiske postvesen lukket diplomatpost adressert av Hans Britanniske Majestets Regjering til den Britiske Ambassade i Oslo og å befordre den ved det norske postvesens formidling til dens bestemmelsessted.

“(2) Diplomposten skal adresseres til den norske Utenriksminister eller Hans Britanniske Majestets Utenriksminister eller til de respektive Ambassadører eller Chargés d’Affaires som forholdet måtte tilsi. Den skal utstyres med de behørlige segl og kan låses hvis så ønskes, idet nøklene forblir i de respektive Utenriksministeriers og Ambassadors varetekt.

“(3) Det skal ikke tas noen betaling for mottakelsen og forsendelsen av denne diplomatpost. Den skal nyte godt av alle de fordeler som av de britiske og norske myndigheter vanligvis innrømmes offentlige postsaker og den skal være ukrenkelig.

“(4) Vekten av hver diplomatpost må i samsvar med bestemmelsene i det internasjonale postreglement ikke overstige 66 lbs. (30 kg.) og størrelsen på hver diplomatpost må ikke overskride 49 tommer (124 cm) ganger 26 tommer (66 cm).”

I samsvar med Deres forslag trer denne avtale i kraft dags dato.
Motta, herr Ambassadør, forsikringen om min mest utmerkede høyaktelse.

(Sd.) HALVARD M. LANGE.

*Royal Norwegian Ministry for
Foreign Affairs,*

(Translation)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Oslo, 15th January, 1947

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note, of 23rd December last containing revised proposals for an agreement between His Britannic Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Royal Norwegian Government in respect of the exchange of closed diplomatic mail between the British Foreign Office and His Britannic Majesty's Embassy on the one hand and the Royal Norwegian Government and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in London on the other. In reply thereto I have the honour to inform you that my Government have approved the terms of the draft agreement, reading as follows:—

[As in sub-paragraphs (1)–(4) of No. 1]

As proposed by you, this agreement enters into force to-day.

Accept, &c.

(Sd.) HALVARD M. LANGE.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses:

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1947

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