



Treaty Series No. 24 (1951)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom and  
the Government of Cuba

## for the Abolition of Visas

Havana, 2nd March, 1951

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

LONDON  
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

FOURPENCE NET

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA FOR  
THE ABOLITION OF VISAS**

*Havana, 2nd March, 1951*

(1)

*His Majesty's Ambassador at Havana to the Cuban Minister of State*

*British Embassy,*

Your Excellency,

*Havana, 2nd March, 1951.*

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, as a first step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to Cuba and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Government of Cuba an Agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) Cuban nationals shall be free to travel to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from any place whatever without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance, provided that they are in possession of valid Cuban passports.
- (2) British subjects possessing valid passports bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" (Pasaporte británico) at the top, and at the bottom "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," and, inside, the description of the holder's national status as "British subject" (súbdito británico) shall be free to enter Cuba from any place whatever as persons in transit for a period of thirty days or as tourists or temporary visitors for a period not exceeding six months, renewable for a similar period, without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.
- (3)—(a) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Cuban nationals and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom and to Cuba from the necessity of complying with the British and Cuban laws and regulations concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment or occupation of foreigners and that travellers who are unable to satisfy the Immigration authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations are liable to be refused leave to enter or land.  
(b) The entry into Cuba of British subjects may be refused by the Immigration authorities when those concerned do not conform with the regulations in force in Cuba, particularly Section 1 of Order 155 of 15th May, 1902, as freely interpreted by the said authorities.  
(c) British subjects wishing to settle permanently in Cuba will first have to obtain from the competent Cuban authorities the necessary entry permit and the insertion in their travel documents of a statement to the effect that they are authorised to settle permanently in Cuba.
- (4) This agreement shall not exempt Cuban nationals travelling to British colonies, overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship or British subjects, not in possession of United Kingdom passports as defined in sub-paragraph (2) above, travelling from those territories to Cuba, from the need to obtain a visa.

If the Cuban Government are prepared to accept the foregoing provisions, I have the honour to suggest that the present note and your Excellency's

reply in similar terms should be regarded as placing on record the Agreement between the two Governments which shall take effect on the seventeenth March, nineteen hundred and fifty-one, and shall be terminable by either Government subject to three months' notice.

I avail, &c.

ADRIAN HOLMAN.

(2)

*The Cuban Minister of State to His Majesty's Ambassador at Havana*

Señor Embajador:

*La Habana, 2 de marzo de 1951.*

Tengo el honor de acusar recibo de la atenta nota de Vuestra Excelencia de fecha de hoy, en la cual se me informa que, como paso preliminar hacia un eventual restablecimiento de la libertad para viajar a Cuba y a territorios británicos, el Gobierno de Su Majestad en el Reino Unido está dispuesto a concertar con el Gobierno de Cuba un Acuerdo de conformidad con los siguientes términos:

- (1) Los nacionales de Cuba estarán en libertad de dirigirse al Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña y Norte de Irlanda desde cualquier lugar, sin necesidad de obtener previamente una visa, siempre que se encuentren en posesión de pasaportes cubanos válidos.
- (2) Los súbditos británicos poseedores de pasaportes válidos que lleven en el extremo superior de la portada la inscripción "British Passport" (Pasaporte británico), y en el extremo inferior "Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña y Norte de Irlanda," y en el interior conste la descripción del status nacional del poseedor de dicho pasaporte como súbdito británico (British subject), tendrán libertad para entrar en Cuba como transeuntes, por un período de 30 días, o turistas o visitantes temporales, desde cualquier lugar, por un período no mayor de seis meses, prorrogable por igual tiempo, sin necesidad de obtener previamente la visa.
- (3)—(a) Se entiende que la renuncia al requisito de la visa no exime a los ciudadanos cubanos y a los súbditos británicos que lleguen al Reino Unido y a Cuba, respectivamente, de la necesidad de cumplir con las leyes británicas y cubanas y demás disposiciones vigentes en ambos países que regulen la entrada, residencia temporal o permanente, y el empleo u ocupación de extranjeros, y que aquellos viajeros que a juicio de las autoridades de Inmigración no cumplan con estas leyes y disposiciones, estarán expuestos a que se les niegue el permiso para entrar o desembarcar.
  - (b) La entrada en Cuba de súbditos británicos podrá ser denegada por las autoridades de Inmigración cuando los interesados no se ajusten a los reglamentos vigentes en Cuba, particularmente la Sección 1 de la Orden 155 del 15 de mayo de 1902, libremente interpretados por dichas autoridades.
  - (c) Los súbditos británicos que deseen residir permanentemente en Cuba deberán obtener previamente de las autoridades competentes cubanas el permiso de entrada necesario y la inserción en sus documentos de viaje de las diligencias acreditativas de que están autorizados para residir permanentemente en Cuba.
- (4) Este Acuerdo no exime a los ciudadanos cubanos que viajen hacia las Colonias Británicas, territorios de Ultramar, protectorados, territorios bajo mandato o fideicomiso, o a los súbditos británicos que

no estuvieren en posesión de pasaportes del Reino Unido, según queda aclarado en el párrafo (2), que viajen de dichos territorios hacia Cuba, de la necesidad de obtener visas.

Me complace expresar a Vuestra Excelencia que el Gobierno cubano está dispuesto a aceptar las disposiciones que anteceden, y que la nota de Vuestra Excelencia y la presente respuesta en términos similares serán consideradas como la formalización del Acuerdo entre nuestros dos Gobiernos, el cual entrará en vigor en 17 de marzo de 1951 y dejará de surtir efecto, a petición de uno u otro Gobierno, con la previa notificación de tres meses.

Aprovecho, etc.

ERNESTO DIHIGO.

(Translation)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Havana, 2nd March, 1951.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of to-day's date, in which you inform me that, as a preliminary step towards the eventual restoration of freedom of travel to Cuba and to British territories, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are disposed to conclude with the Government of Cuba an Agreement in accordance with the following terms:—

- (1) Cuban nationals shall be free to go to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from any place whatever, without the necessity of previously obtaining a visa, provided that they are in possession of valid Cuban passports.
- (2) British subjects holders of valid passports bearing at the top end of the cover the inscription "British Passport" (Pasaporte británico), and at the lower end "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," and on the inside recording the description of the national status of the holder of said passport as British subject (súbdito británico), shall be free to enter Cuba as transients, for a period of 30 days, or tourists or temporary visitors, from any place whatever, for a period not greater than six months, renewable for an equal time, without the necessity of previously obtaining a visa.
- (3)—(a) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Cuban citizens and British subjects arriving in the United Kingdom and in Cuba, respectively, from the necessity of complying with the British and Cuban laws and other regulations in force in both countries regulating the entry, residence, temporary or permanent, and the employment or occupation of foreigners, and that those travellers who in the judgment of the Immigration authorities do not comply with these laws and regulations shall be liable to be refused permission to enter or to land.

(b) The entry into Cuba of British subjects may be refused by the Immigration authorities when those concerned do not conform to the regulations in force in Cuba, particularly Section 1 of Order 155 of 15th May, 1902, freely interpreted by the said authorities.

(c) British subjects who wish to reside permanently in Cuba must previously obtain from the competent Cuban authorities the necessary entry permit and the insertion in their travel documents of statements establishing that they are authorised to reside permanently in Cuba.

191

(4) This Agreement shall not exempt Cuban citizens travelling to British Colonies, overseas territories, protectorates, territories under mandate or trusteeship, or British subjects not in possession of United Kingdom passports, as clarified in paragraph (2), travelling from said territories to Cuba, from the need to obtain visas.

I am pleased to inform your Excellency that the Cuban Government are disposed to accept the foregoing provisions, and that your Excellency's note and the present reply in similar terms shall be considered as the formal recording of the Agreement between our two Governments, which shall enter into force on 17th March, 1951, and shall cease to be in effect, at the request of one or the other Government, with the prior notification of three months.

I avail, &c.

ERNESTO DIHIGO.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from

York House, Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2    429 Oxford Street, LONDON, W.1

P.O. Box 569, LONDON, S.E.1

13a Castle Street, EDINBURGH, 2    1 St. Andrew's Crescent, CARDIFF

39 King Street, MANCHESTER, 2    Tower Lane, BRISTOL, 1

2 Edmund Street, BIRMINGHAM, 3    80 Chichester Street, BELFAST

*or from any Bookseller*

1951

Price 4*d.* net

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN