



Treaty Series No. 40 (1953)

Exchange of Notes

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

regarding the Reciprocal Abolition of Visas

London, June 1, 1953

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
June 1953*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
THREEPENCE NET

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE REGARD-
ING THE RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISAS**

London, June 1, 1953

No. 1

Sir Winston Churchill to the Greek Ambassador at London

Foreign Office, S.W. 1,

Your Excellency,

June 1, 1953.

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

(1) Greek nationals shall be free to travel from any place whatever to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance, provided that they are in possession of valid Greek passports.

(2) British subjects possessing valid passports bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" at the top, and at the bottom the inscription "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" or "Jersey" or "Guernsey and its Dependencies" and, inside, the description of the holder's national status as "British subject," or "British subject; citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies," or "British subject; citizen of the United Kingdom, Islands and Colonies," shall be free to travel from any place whatever to Greece without the necessity of obtaining a visa in advance.

(3)—(a) It is understood that the waiver of the visa requirement does not exempt Greek nationals and British subjects coming respectively to the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and to Greece, from the necessity of complying with the British and Greek 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 to land.

(b) The competent authorities of each country reserve the right to refuse leave to enter or stay in the country to persons considered undesirable.

(4) This agreement shall not exempt Greek nationals travelling to British colonies, overseas territories, protectorates or territories under mandate or trusteeship, or British subjects not in possession of passports as defined in sub-paragraph (2) above, travelling to Greece from these territories or from any other place, from the need of obtaining a visa.

(5) Either Government may suspend the agreement temporarily for reasons of public order, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the other Government through the diplomatic channel.

(6) Either Government may denounce the agreement subject to one month's notice.

(7) The present agreement will enter into force on the 16th of June, 1953.

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2. If the Greek 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 considered as placing on record the agreement between the two countries.

I have, &c.

(For Sir Winston Churchill),

H. WARD.

No. 2

The Greek Ambassador at London to Sir Winston Churchill

Ambassade Royale de Grèce,

London, June 1, 1953.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of to-day's date informing me that, as a first step towards the establishment of freedom of travel to Greece and to British territories, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to conclude with the Greek Government an agreement in the following terms:—

[As in No. 1, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (1) to (7).]

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to confirm the provisions set out in your letter, which, with the present reply, shall be regarded as placing on record the Agreement reached between the two Governments.

I have, &c.

LEON V. MELAS.

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