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Agreement

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic concerning the carrying of Service Weapons by French Officers on the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Le Touquet, 4 February 2003

[The Agreement entered into force on 10 March 2005]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
June 2005*

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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE
CARRYING OF SERVICE WEAPONS BY FRENCH OFFICERS ON THE
TERRITORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic,

Hereinafter called "the Parties",

Having regard to the Protocol between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the French Republic concerning Frontier Controls and Policing, Co-operation in Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Mutual Assistance relating to the Channel Fixed Link, signed at Sangatte on 25 November 1991¹, and in particular Articles 28(2) and 47 thereof, and the Additional Protocol signed at Brussels on 29 May 2000², and in particular Articles 2 and 6 thereof,

Have agreed as follows:

SECTION 1

General Provisions

ARTICLE 1

In the present Agreement the term "officer" shall mean exclusively officers of the French Customs and officers of the French National Police belonging to the Direction Centrale de la Police aux Frontières.

ARTICLE 2

In the present Agreement, the term "service weapon" shall mean the arm regularly assigned to officers by the relevant authority.

ARTICLE 3

An officer may only carry a single service weapon and twelve cartridges.

¹ Treaty Series No. 70 (1993) Cm 2366

² Treaty Series No. 33 (2002) Cm 5586

ARTICLE 4

Only uniformed officers shall be authorised to carry a service weapon.

ARTICLE 5

The name of officers authorised to carry a service weapon, as well as the category of service weapon with which they are equipped in the exercise of their functions, shall be reported in advance to the competent British authorities, who shall provide the permanent individual authorisations on the basis of that information.

ARTICLE 6

The officers shall not be authorised to carry their service weapons outside the French control zone, except in the cases mentioned in articles 13, 14 and 16 of the present Agreement, and except in the case of exceptional circumstances requiring the evacuation of the train on British territory.

ARTICLE 7

Officers may not use their service weapons unless strictly required for self-defence or defence of their colleagues. The British authorities shall be informed immediately.

ARTICLE 8

A service weapon may not be left unattended, unless it is deposited in a protected location within the area allocated to the French authorities in the control zones of the stations of Cheriton, Ashford International and Waterloo International.

ARTICLE 9

"Secure" cabinets intended for the temporary deposit of service weapons and munitions shall be installed within the protected location situated within the area allocated to the French authorities in the control zones of the stations of Cheriton, Ashford International and Waterloo International when the armed officers exercise their operations there. These secure cabinets, which shall be provided by the French authorities, must meet the technical specifications drawn up in agreement with the British authorities.

ARTICLE 10

The loading and unloading of service weapons shall be carried out in accordance with the security instructions established by the French authorities, in an unloading area situated in the protected location referred to in Article 8 of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 11

The British police shall be informed immediately of the loss, theft or accidental misuse of a service weapon by an officer. Any information relevant to the enquiry shall be reported to them.

SECTION II

Carrying Service Weapons on Trains

ARTICLE 12

In order to exercise their functions, the officers shall be authorised to carry their service weapon during the journey to and from the control zones of the stations of Cheriton, Ashford International and Waterloo International.

ARTICLE 13

Through Trains

When making checks on board through trains, officers shall be authorised to carry their service weapon throughout the journey.

On their arrival at Ashford International and Waterloo International, officers who do not immediately board another train must go to the area allocated to the French authorities, and there deposit their service weapon in the secure cabinet referred to in Article 9 of the present Agreement until they board another train.

ARTICLE 14

Shuttles

When travelling to Cheriton Station by shuttle officers shall go direct to their control zone upon their arrival at the station.

SECTION III

Provisions applicable within the control zones situated in the territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ARTICLE 15

The French authorities shall determine, depending on their needs, the number of armed officers who will be on duty in each team. The teams shall in principle be under the supervision of a senior officer.

ARTICLE 16

On British territory, service weapons may not be carried by officers outside the control zones, except during the journey to those zones and during the process of boarding and leaving the train. If the officers leave the control zones of a station for any other reason they must deposit their service weapon in the cabinet referred to in Article 9 of the present Agreement.

Access to the protected location referred to in Article 8 of the present Agreement shall be restricted strictly for officers in the exercise of their functions. In case of emergency, and outside the hours of duty of such officers, access to that location shall be strictly restricted for the British Transport Police (BTP) and Kent County Constabulary.

SECTION IV

Final Provisions

ARTICLE 17

Each of the Parties shall notify the other of the completion of its own constitutional procedures required for the entry into force of the present Agreement, which shall enter into force on the day on which the second notification is received.¹

ARTICLE 18

The rules governing the carrying of service weapons as set out in the present Agreement may be amended, as required, by administrative arrangement.

¹ Although the notifications were dated 23 November 2004 and 14 February 2005, entry into force was delayed by late receipt of the latter notification

ARTICLE 19

The present Agreement may be terminated by the competent authorities of either of the Parties by giving a period of notice of six months.

Done in duplicate at Le Touquet this fourth day of February 2003 in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland:

For the Government
of the French Republic:

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