



Treaty Series No. 31 (1961)

Exchange of Notes

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

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

Reykjavik, February 9, 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 ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRITISH VISITOR'S PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ICELAND

No. 1

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Reykjavik to the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs

British Embassy,

Your Excellency,

Reykjavik, February 9, 1961.

You will be aware that in connexion with the question of the simplification of frontier formalities the Council of Europe and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation have recommended that Member countries of the Organisation should admit each other's nationals to their territory for visits of not more than three months on presentation of identity cards based on the standard form recognised by the Tourism Committee of the Organisation.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that as identity cards are not issued to residents of the United Kingdom a simplified form of passport known as the 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⁽¹⁾.

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 Iceland conclude an Agreement in the following terms:

- (a) The Government of Iceland undertakes to accept the British Visitor's Passport as a valid passport and to permit holders to enter and stay in Iceland subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) A visit to Iceland shall not exceed three months and shall not be for employment.
 - (ii) A visitor who enters Iceland on presentation of a British Visitor's Passport and who subsequently obtains leave to stay longer than

⁽¹⁾ Not reproduced.

three months shall be required to obtain a passport bearing on the cover the inscription "British Passport" before the expiry of the three months' period.

- (iii) Holders of British Visitor's Passports proceeding to Iceland shall not be exempt from the necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of Iceland relating to the entry and residence 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.
 - (iv) The right is reserved to the competent authorities of Iceland to refuse any person leave to enter or stay in Iceland 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 Iceland relating to the entry or stay of foreigners.
 - (v) The Government of Iceland may suspend the fore-going provisions in whole or in part temporarily for reasons of public policy and/or national security, and the suspension shall be notified immediately to the Government of the United Kingdom through the diplomatic channel.
- (b) The Government of the United Kingdom undertake to take back into their territory at any time holders of British Visitor's Passports who have entered Iceland.

If the above proposals are acceptable to the Government of Iceland I have the honour to suggest that the present Note, together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense, should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the 15th of March, 1961 and remain in force for a period of one year and thereafter until either Government shall have given six months' written notice of termination to the other.

I avail, &c.

CHARLES STEWART.

No. 2

*The Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Ambassador
at Reykjavik*

Your Excellency,

Reykjavik, February 9, 1961.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of to-day's date concerning the British Visitor's Passport reading as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of Iceland will consider Your Excellency's Note, above mentioned, together with this Note, as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments in this matter.

I avail, &c.

GUDM. I. GUDMUNDSSON.

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