

SOVIET UNION



Treaty Series No. 2 (1980)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics

further amending the Agreement of
14/15 August 1968, concerning the
Abolition of Visas for Crew Members
of British Airways and Aeroflot

Moscow, 30 March 1979

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
January 1980*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS FURTHER AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF
14/15 AUGUST 1968 CONCERNING THE ABOLITION OF VISAS
FOR CREW MEMBERS OF BRITISH AIRWAYS AND AEROFLOT

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Embassy at Moscow to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*

Note No. 140

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and have the honour to draw the Ministry's attention to the following problem concerning entry and exit formalities for British aircrew on services to and from the Soviet Union.

In an Exchange of Notes between the British Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which took place between the 7th of July and the 10th of August 1970,⁽¹⁾ supplementary to the Agreement concerning the abolition of visas for crew members of BEA and Aeroflot aircraft of the 14/15th August 1968,⁽²⁾ and which was amended by Exchange of Notes of 29 January and 21 March 1974,⁽³⁾ it was agreed that the number of crew members of the British airline who made use of the right of flights without visas across the territory of the Soviet Union should be raised to 1200 and that on the basis of reciprocity, the same number of Aeroflot flight crew members should be exempted from the need for visas in respect of flights from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev to, or in transit flights through, London and from and to (or in transit flights through) any other cities which might be agreed in accordance with the Supplementary Protocol of the 13th of April 1970.⁽⁴⁾

With effect from the 1st of April 1979, British Airways plan to introduce a new crew allocation scheme under which flight crews will be able to exercise a measure of choice as to the particular routes on which they wish to work. In order, however, to allow the necessary flexibility for this scheme to be workable, it will be necessary for there to be a small increase in the currently agreed number of crew members who enjoy the right of flights without visas across the territory of the Soviet Union. Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy accordingly have the honour to propose that the present limit of 1200 persons should be increased to 1500 persons.

(1) Treaty Series No. 100 (1970), Cmnd. 4514.

(2) Treaty Series No. 102 (1968), Cmnd. 3827.

(3) Treaty Series No. 76 (1975), Cmnd. 6057.

(4) Treaty Series No. 42 (1970), Cmnd. 4388.

If the Soviet side agree to this proposal, it is confirmed that on the basis of reciprocity, the Government of the United Kingdom will similarly abolish the need for visas in respect of 1500 members of Aeroflot aircrews. Moreover, subject to the foregoing, the Embassy have the honour further to propose that this Note and the Ministry's reply shall constitute an agreement between the two governments further amending the agreement of the 14th/15th August 1968.

Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurances of their highest consideration.

British Embassy
30 March 1979

No. 2

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to Her Majesty's Embassy at Moscow*

№ 26/2E

Министерство иностранных дел Союза Советских Социалистических Республик свидетельствует свое уважение Посольству Великобритании и, ссылаясь на ноту Посольства № 140 от 30 марта 1979 года, имеет честь сообщить следующее.

Советские компетентные организации рассмотрели пожелания английской стороны, изложенные в указанной ноте Посольства. Советская сторона согласна, начиная с 1 апреля 1979 года, увеличить на основе взаимности существующий ныне лимит членов экипажей самолетов британской авиакомпании Бритиш Эйруэйз, пользующихся правом безвизовых полетов над территорией Советского Союза, с 1200 до 1500 человек.

Советская сторона согласна также с тем, чтобы упомянутая нота Посольства и настоящий ответ на нее Министерства считались дополнением к Соглашению между СССР и Великобританией о безвизовых полетах членов экипажей самолетов Аэрофлота и Бритиш Эйруэйз от 14-15 августа 1968 года.

Министерство иностранных дел СССР пользуется настоящим случаем, чтобы возобновить Посольству Великобритании уверения в своем самом высоком уважении.

Москва, «30» марта 1979 года

ПОСОЛЬСТВО ВЕЛИКОВРИТАНИИ
г. Москва

[Translation of No. 2]

No. 26/2E

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Embassy of Great Britain and with reference to the Embassy's Note No. 140 of 30 March, 1979 has the honour to state the following.

The Soviet competent organisations have examined the wishes of the British side, set out in the aforementioned Embassy note. The Soviet side agrees, with effect from 1 April 1979, to increase on the basis of reciprocity the limit at present existing on the crew members of aircraft of the British airline British Airways enjoying the right of visa free flights over the territory of the Soviet Union from 1200 to 1500.

The Soviet side also agrees that the Embassy Note referred to and this reply of the MFA shall be considered as a supplement to the Agreement between the USSR and Great Britain on the visa free flights for crew members of Aeroflot and British Airways of 14-15 August 1968.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR avails itself of the present opportunity to renew to the Embassy of Great Britain the assurance of its highest consideration.

Moscow

30 March 1979