

WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

Exchange of notes at Brussels April 2 and 8, 1927

Entered into force April 15, 1927

Supplemented by agreement of November 26 and December 15, 1930¹

Terminated March 11, 1940²

Department of State files

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires

[TRANSLATION]

April 2, 1927

MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES:

With reference to your communication of March 1, 1927, B 330, I have the honor to inform you that from the 15th of April next, and in continuation of the ruling which has been effective for the past six years, citizens of the United States going to Belgium will be exempted from the formality of a consular visa in order to enter the country where they will be permitted to stay for a period not exceeding four months, without the necessity of securing an authorization to remain or any Belgian visa.

Moreover, American subjects will be allowed to enter the Kingdom one or more times in the course of a year on condition that the length of each stay on Belgian territory does not exceed four months, that when they leave the country the communal authorities of the district where they have resided be notified and that during their absence they retain no dwelling or residence in Belgium.

It is understood, however, that the diplomatic agents of the United States in Belgium, their family and their personnel, will continue to be exempt from the obligation of a "visa de séjour" which the American Consular agents of career will obtain free of charge.

On its side the American Government will suppress from the same date, the collecting of all costs of visas in favor of Belgian subjects going to the United States without the intention of settling there. When requesting these

¹ *Post*, p. 554.

² Pursuant to notice of termination given by the United States on that date.

visas at the American Consulates those interested will have to conform to the same regulations as those which have been observed to this time.

Visas for immigrants will continue to be delivered against payment of the agreed tax when the applicant has fulfilled the prescribed formalities.

On the other hand, the representatives of the Government of the King will be exempt from all charges for visas and Diplomatic and Consular agents of career, their family and personnel, will obtain visas as previously.

I would add that the formality of the visa and the payment of the required tax are maintained both with regard to American citizens wishing to enter the Congo and to those settling in Belgian territory or residing there continuously for more than four months.

On the other hand, the suppression of the obligation to have a visa does not exempt the citizens of the United States going to Belgium from the necessity of registering at once, on their arrival, at the office for foreigners in the district in which they may reside, the said registration requiring no tax and being merely a police measure.

VANDERVELDE

Mr. JAMES C. DUNN,
Chargé d'Affaires a. i.
of the United States of America,
Brussels.

The American Chargé d'Affaires to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

No. 340

BRUSSELS, April 8, 1927.

MR. MINISTER,

With reference to Your Excellency's note of April 2, 1927, (Direction C1 No. 2942/17 P-3e section-6e Bureau), on the subject of the arrangement with regard to the suppression of visa fees in the case of non-immigrant Belgians entering the United States, I am instructed by my Government to inform you that the terms proposed by the Belgian Government, as set forth in Your Excellency's note above, are acceptable to my Government and make it possible to put into effect the waiver of fees in the case of Belgian non-immigrants.

I have further been instructed to inform the American Consular Officers in Belgium that the agreement will become effective on April 15, 1927, and that, commencing on that date, non-immigrant Belgians applying to American Consulates for visas will not be required to pay the visa fees therefor.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

JAMES CLEMENT DUNN,
Chargé d'Affaires a. i.

His Excellency

Mr. EMILE VANDERVELDE,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.