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MINISTRY PAPER NO. 35

Visa Abolition Agreement - Jamaica
and France

Prior to Jamaica's independence, there existed a visa abolition agreement between Britain and France, which was extended to Jamaica as a Colony. Following our Independence, both Jamaica and France agreed to continue visa abolition arrangements pending the negotiation of a fresh agreement between our two countries.

2. On the 24th of September 1968, the Ambassador of France to Jamaica and myself exchanged Notes which constitute a visa abolition agreement between Jamaica and France. Copies of the English version of these Notes are attached for the information of Members of this Honourable House.

3. The agreement provides that citizens of the countries concerned may visit each other's countries for periods not exceeding ninety days, without visas, provided they hold valid national passports and do not take up employment, and provided they comply with the laws regarding entry and residence. The right of each country to refuse entry of undesirable citizens is preserved, and there is also an undertaking on each side to readmit the holders of valid national passports, even in the case of a person whose nationality is being contested. Provision is made for temporary suspension of the agreement, other than the undertaking for re-admission of the country's own nationals. The Agreement extends to the French Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion).

4. The agreement will come into effect thirty days after the date of signature, and can be revoked by either Government ninety days after notice of revocation has been given, in writing.

(H. L. Shearer)
Prime Minister and Minister
of External Affairs
7th October, 1968.

Ministry of External Affairs,
Kingston.
MEA C81/016^{II}

24th September, 1968

Mr. Ambassador,

I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's knowledge that, in order to facilitate travel between Jamaica and France, the Jamaican Government proposes to the French Government the adoption of the following arrangements:-

- 1) Jamaican citizens, whatever their country of residence may be, are free to enter France, and to leave, by any route, without a visa, provided that they are holders of a valid national passport.
- 2) French citizens, whatever their country of residence may be, are free to enter Jamaica, and to leave, by any route, without a visa, provided that they are holders of a valid national passport.
- 3) The facilities provided for in the preceding paragraphs are applicable only in the case of visits not exceeding ninety days.

It remains obligatory for the citizens of one of the contracting Parties, desirous of entering the territory of the other for a visit of more than ninety days, or of engaging in remunerative activities, to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in the receiving territory.

- 4) The arrangements mentioned in the preceding paragraphs do not alter the legally prescribed regulations pertaining to visits of aliens to the territory of each of the two countries.
- 5) Each of the contracting Parties reserves the right to refuse entry or sojourn into its territory to citizens of the other whom it considers as undesirable.
- 6) Each of the two contracting Parties undertakes to readmit, without formality, into its territory, any holder of one of the documents, valid or expired, specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 and issued by it, even in the case of a person whose nationality is being contested.

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His Excellency,
Mr. Michel Louët,
French Ambassador to Jamaica.

- 7) Each of the two Governments reserves the right, for reasons of security, of law and order or of public health, to suspend temporarily the application of the present arrangements, except as regards those of the preceding paragraph. Such a decision shall be notified immediately through diplomatic channels and, if possible, after agreement between the two contracting Parties. The same procedure will apply once the measure in question has been revoked.
- 8) The present arrangements apply, as far as Jamaica is concerned, to Jamaican territory, and, as far as France is concerned, to European territory and to the Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion).

I suggest that the present letter and Your Excellency's reply constitute the agreement concerning the suppression of the short-term visa between Jamaica and France, which would come into effect thirty days after the date of this reply and could be revoked at any time by either Government, revocation taking effect ninety days after written notification has been given.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sgd. H. L. Shearer
Prime Minister and
Minister of External Affairs.

Kingston, 24th September 1968.

Mr. Prime Minister,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter No. C81-016² II of September 24th 1968 which reads as follows:

"Mr. Ambassador,

I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's knowledge that, in order to facilitate travel between Jamaica and France, the Jamaican Government proposes to the French Government the adoption of the following arrangements:

1) Jamaican citizens, whatever their country of residence may be, are free to enter France, and to leave, by any route, without a visa, provided that they are holders of a valid national passport.

2) French citizens, whatever their country of residence may be, are free, to enter Jamaica, and to leave, by any route, without a visa, provided that they are holders of a valid national passport.

3) The facilities provided for in the preceding paragraphs are applicable only in the case of visits not exceeding ninety days.

It remains obligatory for the citizens of one of the contracting Parties, desirous of entering the territory of the other for a visit of more than ninety days, or of engaging in remunerative activities, to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in the receiving territory.

4) The arrangements mentioned in the preceding paragraphs do not alter the legally prescribed regulations pertaining to visits of aliens to the territory of each of the two countries.

5) Each of the contracting Parties reserves the right to refuse entry or sojourn into its territory to citizens of the other whom it considers as undesirable.

6) Each of the two contracting Parties undertakes to readmit, without formality, into its territory, any holder of one of the documents, valid or expired, specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 and issued by it, even in the case of a person whose nationality is being contested.

7) Each of the two Governments reserves the right, for reasons of security, of law and order or of public health, to suspend temporarily the application of the present arrangements, except as regards those of the preceding paragraph. Such a decision shall be notified immediately through diplomatic channels and, if possible, after agreement between the two contracting Parties. The same procedure will apply once the measure in question has been revoked.

8) The present arrangements apply, as far as Jamaica is concerned, to Jamaican territory, and, as far as France is concerned, to European territory and to the Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion).

I suggest that the present letter and Your Excellency's

reply....

reply constitute the agreement concerning the suppression of the short-term visa between Jamaica and France, which would come into effect thirty days after the date of this reply and could be revoked at any time by either Government, revocation taking effect ninety days after written notification has been given.

Please accept, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration."

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the terms stipulated in the foregoing letter meet with the approval of the Government of the French Republic. This letter and the present reply constitute, therefore, the agreement on this subject between both Governments.

Please accept, Mr. Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sgd. M. Louët
Ambassador for France.

His Excellency Hugh L. Shearer,
Prime Minister of Jamaica,
Minister of External Affairs,
KINGSTON.