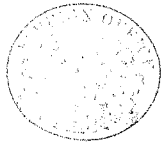


This is to certify that the attached document, marked "A", contains a TRUE COPY of the Text, in the English language, of an Agreement (together with two sets of Notes exchanged between Mr. Eden and Monsieur Molotov) relating to Prisoners of War and Civilians liberated by forces operating under Soviet Command and forces operating under British Command, which was signed at the Crimea, in duplicate and in the English and Russian languages, on the eleventh day of February, 1945.



LONDON.

J. F. French

Acting Librarian and Keeper of the Papers
at the Foreign Office, London.

Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

8th March, 1945.

AGREEMENT RELATING TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIANS
LIBERATED BY FORCES OPERATING UNDER SOVIET
COMMAND AND FORCES OPERATING UNDER BRITISH
COMMAND.

THE Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of Canada, of Australia, of New Zealand, of the Union of South Africa and of India on the one hand and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the other hand, wishing to make arrangements for the care and repatriation of Soviet citizens freed by forces operating under British command and for British subjects freed by forces operating under Soviet command, have agreed as follows:—

ARTICLE 1.

All Soviet citizens liberated by the forces operating under British command and all British subjects liberated by the forces operating under Soviet command will, without delay after their liberation, be separated from enemy prisoners of war and will be maintained separately from them in camps or points of concentration until they have been handed over to the Soviet or British authorities, as the case may be, at places agreed upon between those authorities.

British and Soviet military authorities will respectively take the necessary measures for protection of camps and points of concentration from enemy bombing, artillery fire, &c.

ARTICLE 2.

The contracting parties shall ensure that their military authorities shall without delay inform the competent authorities of the other party regarding citizens or subjects of the other contracting party found by them, and will at the same time take the necessary steps to implement the provisions of this agreement. Soviet and British repatriation representatives will have the right of immediate access into the camps and points of concentration where their citizens or subjects are located and they will have the right to appoint the internal administration and set up the internal discipline and management in accordance with the military procedure and laws of their country.

Facilities will be given for the despatch or transfer of officers of their own nationality to camps or points of concentration where liberated members of the respective forces are located and there are insufficient officers. The outside protection of and access to and from the camps or points of concentration will be established in accordance with the instructions of the military commander in whose zone they are located, and the military commander shall also appoint a commandant, who shall have the final responsibility for the overall administration and discipline of the camp or point concerned.

The removal of camps as well as the transfer from one camp to another of liberated citizens or subjects will be effected by agreement with the competent Soviet or British authorities. Removal of camps and transfer of liberated citizens or subjects may, in exceptional circumstances, also be effected without preliminary agreement, provided the competent authorities are immediately notified of such removal or transfer with a statement of the reasons. Hostile propaganda directed against the contracting parties or against any of the United Nations will not be permitted.

ARTICLE 3.

The competent British and Soviet authorities will supply liberated citizens or subjects of the contracting parties with adequate food, clothing, housing and medical attention both in camps or at points of concentration and *en route*, and with transport until they are handed over to the Soviet or British authorities at places agreed upon between those authorities. The standards of such food, clothing, housing and medical attention shall, subject to the provisions of Article 8, be fixed on a basis for privates, non-commissioned officers and officers. The basis fixed for civilians shall as far as possible be the same as that fixed for privates.

The contracting parties will not demand compensation for these or other similar services which their authorities may supply respectively to liberated citizens or subjects of the other contracting party.

ARTICLE 4.

Each of the contracting parties shall be at liberty to use in agreement with the other party such of its own means of transport as may be available for the repatriation of its citizens or subjects held by the other contracting

party. Similarly each of the contracting parties shall be at liberty to use in agreement with the other party its own facilities for the delivery of supplies to its citizens or subjects held by the other contracting party.

ARTICLE 5.

Soviet and British military authorities shall make such advances on behalf of their respective Governments to liberated citizens and subjects of the other contracting party as the competent Soviet and British authorities shall agree upon beforehand.

Advances made in currency of any enemy territory or in currency of their occupation authorities shall not be liable to compensation.

In the case of advances made in currency of liberated non-enemy territory, the Soviet and British Governments will effect, each for advances made to their citizens or subjects, necessary settlements with the Governments of the territory concerned, who will be informed of the amount of their currency paid out for this purpose.

ARTICLE 6.

Ex-prisoners of war and civilians of each of the contracting parties may, until their repatriation, be employed in the management, maintenance and administration of the camps or billets in which they are situated. They may also be employed on a voluntary basis on other work in the vicinity of their camps in furtherance of the common war effort in accordance with agreements to be reached between the competent Soviet and British authorities. The question of payment and other conditions of labour shall be determined by agreement between these authorities. It is understood that liberated members of the respective forces will be employed in accordance with military standards and procedure and under the supervision of their own officers.

ARTICLE 7.

The contracting parties shall, wherever necessary, use all practicable means to ensure the evacuation to the rear of these liberated citizens or subjects. They also undertake to use all practicable means to transport liberated citizens or subjects to places to be agreed upon where they can be handed over to the Soviet or British authorities respectively. The handing over of these liberated citizens or subjects shall in no way be delayed or impeded by the requirements of their temporary employment.

ARTICLE 8.

The contracting parties will give the fullest possible effect to the foregoing provisions of this Agreement, subject only to the limitations in detail and from time to time of operational, supply and transport conditions in the several theatres.

ARTICLE 9.

This Agreement shall come into force on Signature.

Done at the Crimea in duplicate and in the English and Russian languages, both being equally authentic, this eleventh day of February, 1945.

For the Government of the United Kingdom:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of Canada:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of Australia:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of New Zealand:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of the Union of South Africa:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of India:

A. EDEN.

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

V. MOLOTOV.

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ANNEX 1.

Mr. Eden to M. Molotov.

Your Excellency, *Vorontsov, 11th February, 1945.*
 At the time of the signature between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India and the Soviet Government of the Agreement relating to prisoners of war and civilians liberated by the forces operating under Soviet Command and by the forces operating under British Command, an understanding has been reached between us which I would like to take this opportunity of placing on record as follows:—

It is understood that the provisions of the second paragraph of Article 5 relating to advances made in currency of enemy territory shall, as regards such advances made in Italy, Roumania and Bulgaria, be the subject of further discussion.

I should be grateful if your Excellency would confirm that this understanding is correct.

I have, &c.
A. EDEN.

M. Molotov to Mr. Eden.

Your Excellency, *11th February, 1945.*
 I HAVE received your note of the 11th February relating to Article 5 of the Agreement signed between us to-day in which it is stated:—

“At the time of the signature between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India and the Soviet Government of the Agreement relating to prisoners of war and civilians liberated by the forces operating under Soviet Command and by the forces operating under British Command, an understanding has been reached between us which I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record as follows:—

“It is understood that the provisions of the second paragraph of Article 5 relating to advances made in currency of enemy territory shall, as regards such advances made in Italy, Roumania and Bulgaria, be the subject of further discussion.”

I have the honour hereby to confirm that the understanding as set forth in your note is correct.

I have, &c.
V. MOLOTOV.

ANNEX 2.

Mr. Eden to M. Molotov.

Your Excellency, *Vorontsov, 11th February, 1945.*
 At the time of the signature between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India and the Soviet Government of the Agreement relating to prisoners of war and civilians liberated by the forces operating under Soviet Command and by the forces operating under British Command, I am bound to place on record that my signature for the Government of Australia is subject to a reservation as regards the provisions of Article 6 of the Agreement.

I have, &c.
A. EDEN.

M. Molotov to Mr. Eden.

Your Excellency, *11th February, 1945.*
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 11th February in which it is stated that:—

“At the time of the signature between the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India and the Soviet Government of the Agreement relating to prisoners of war and civilians liberated by the forces operating under Soviet Command and by the forces operating under British Command, I am bound to place on record that my signature for the Government of Australia is subject to a reservation as regards the provisions of Article 6 of the Agreement.”

I have, &c.
V. MOLOTOV.