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**NORVÈGE ET LA  
RÉPUBLIQUE DES SOVIETS  
DE RUSSIE**

Arrangement préliminaire signé à  
Christiania le 2 septembre 1921.

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**NORWAY AND THE SOVIET  
REPUBLIC OF RUSSIA**

Preliminary Agreement signed at  
Christiania, September 2, 1921.

No. 196. — PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF RUSSIA<sup>1</sup> SIGNED AT CHRISTIANIA, SEPTEMBER 2, 1921.

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*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Norvège. L'enregistrement de cet arrangement a eu lieu le 19 décembre 1921.*

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The ROYAL NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT and the GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERATIVE SOVIET REPUBLIC, who are both desirous that — pending the re-establishment of normal diplomatic relations — trade and commerce between the two countries should be forthwith resumed, have concluded the following Preliminary Agreement, *viz* :

*Article 1.*

(1) The Norwegian Government agrees to grant free admittance to a Delegation of the R. S. F. S. R. Government, consisting of one or several authorized official representatives (head of the Delegation and his official assistants) and several trade agents and their staff of secretaries, experts, translators, clerks, etc. The R. S. F. S. R. Government, on the same conditions, grants admission to a Delegation of the Norwegian Government.

The number of official representatives and trade agents shall be mutually agreed upon.

(2) Provisionally the number of the members of each Delegation, together with the said staff, coming from Norway and Russia, respectively, is fixed at 20, this number being subject to increase by mutual agreement.

(3) The heads of the Delegations of both countries will have quality and full power to act in the name of their Governments.

(4) The official Delegation of the R. S. F. S. R. in Norway should be regarded as the only representative of the Russian State.

(5) If either of the contracting parties should want to appoint any of the said trade agents to reside and carry out the functions ordinarily performed by consular officers — according to the present agreement — at places outside of the capital of the respective country, they may do so subject to the approval in each case of the other party.

*Article 2.*

(1) The official representatives and trade agents enjoy immunity of person, domicile and private property, and shall be exempted from all compulsory obligations and services whatsoever, whether civil, naval, military or other, and from any contributions imposed as an equivalent for

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<sup>1</sup> Ratifié par la Russie le 19 septembre 1921, et par la Norvège le 1 octobre de la même année.

<sup>1</sup> TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 196. — ARRANGEMENT PRÉLIMINAIRE ENTRE LA NORVÈGE ET LA RÉPUBLIQUE DES SOVIETS DE RUSSIE<sup>2</sup>, SIGNÉ A CHRISTIANIA, LE 2 SEPTEMBRE 1921.

*English official text communicated by the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Registration of this Agreement took place on December 19, 1921.*

Le GOUVERNEMENT ROYAL NORVÉGIEN et le GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE FÉDÉRATIVE DES SOVIETS DE RUSSIE, également désireux que les échanges et le commerce entre les deux pays soient repris sans délai, ont conclu, en attendant le rétablissement des relations diplomatiques normales, l'accord préliminaire suivant :

*Article 1.*

1. Le Gouvernement norvégien convient d'accorder libre accès en Norvège à une délégation du Gouvernement de la R. S. F. S. R., composée d'un ou plusieurs représentants officiels autorisés (chef de délégation et ses adjoints officiels) et de plusieurs agents commerciaux, avec leurs secrétaires, experts, traducteurs, commis, etc. Le Gouvernement de la R. S. F. S. R. accorde, aux mêmes conditions, l'accès en Russie d'une délégation du Gouvernement norvégien.

Le nombre des représentants officiels et des agents commerciaux sera fixé d'un commun accord.

2. Le nombre des membres de chaque délégation et celui de leur suite, venant respectivement de Russie et de Norvège, sera provisoirement fixé à vingt ; ce nombre pourra être augmenté d'un commun accord.

3. Les chefs des délégations de chaque pays seront qualifiés et auront pleins pouvoirs pour agir au nom de leur Gouvernement.

4. La délégation officielle de la R. S. F. S. R. en Norvège sera seule considérée comme représentant l'Etat russe.

5. Chacune des deux Parties contractantes aura le droit, si elle le désire, de désigner un des susdits agents commerciaux pour résider en permanence et remplir les fonctions attribuées ordinairement aux membres du service consulaire, conformément au présent accord, dans des endroits situés hors de la capitale de chaque pays, sous réserve de l'approbation, dans chaque cas particulier, de l'autre Partie contractante.

*Article 2.*

1. Les représentants officiels et les agents commerciaux jouiront de l'immunité, pour eux-mêmes, leur domicile et leurs propriétés privées, et seront exempts de toute obligation et de tout service civil, naval, militaire ou autre, ainsi que de toute contribution imposée à titre d'équiva-

<sup>1</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

<sup>2</sup> Ratified by Russia on September 19, 1921, and by Norway on October 1 of the same year.

personal service. They shall be free of any central or local taxation and enjoy all other privileges of that kind which are granted to the official representatives of other foreign Governments, and shall have the right of egress.

(2) The respective Governments will extend to members of the staffs of the respective Delegations, including persons already domiciled in the respective country, the same liberality as is, under equal circumstances, usually, in conformity with the law of nations, accorded to the staffs of diplomatic missions.

(3) The official representatives of both countries shall have the right to use the flag and other official emblems established by the laws of their respective countries.

*Article 3.*

(1) The Delegations shall be granted the rights enjoyed by persons having a legal status and all consequences arising therefrom, such as the right of appearing before the courts of the country in question as plaintiff or defendant, and of entering into every sort of commercial, credit, and financial transactions within the limits of the laws of the respective country. For this purpose, the Delegations of both countries should, as regards civil disputes arising in connection with this agreement, be granted the right of bringing actions and to appear before the said courts with full legal effect.

(2) The Heads of both Delegations shall further be empowered to receive — on behalf of their mandators — notices and citations brought against the latter before the Norwegian or Russian courts, respectively, regarding the fulfilment of contracts made under this agreement.

*Article 4.*

(1) Both Governments declare that they will not initiate nor support any steps with a view to attach or take possession of any funds, goods or movable or immovable property belonging to the other party or its nationals lawfully imported into or acquired in the respective countries after the conclusion of this Agreement.

(2) As long as the present Agreement is in force, property belonging to the Russian Government shall in Norway enjoy the immunity extended under international law to the property of friendly Governments and shall especially not be subjected to Norwegian jurisdiction or sequestration by Norwegian authorities. The previous stipulation does not, however, apply in the case of legal actions arising in connection with contracts, acts and events taking place under this Agreement.

The Russian Government gives a corresponding guaranty as regards property belonging to the Norwegian Government.

(3) The stipulation laid down in § 32 of the law relating to civil procedure, dated August 13th, 1915, and implying that an action may be brought in against a person who has no general forum (venue) in Norway, shall not be applied with respect to the Russian Government and its official representatives.

(4) If — as a result of any action in a court — effectiveness of the stipulations of this article should to some extent be reduced, either of the parties have the right to terminate this agreement forthwith.

*Article 5.*

(1) The official representatives enjoy the rights of free access to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the respective country in matters relating to their Governments, to the carrying out of this Agreement, to trade relations, or to the defence of the interests of their nationals.

(2) They enjoy also the right to grant visas and passports, and to certify documents, and all other rights of that kind which belong to official representatives of other foreign Governments in the country in question.

*Article 6.*

(1) The official representatives and trade agents enjoy the right of freely communicating with their own Government and its official representatives in other countries by way of telegraph, wireless, or mail, and the right of sending and receiving telegrams in cipher, the dispatches of the Delegations being forwarded on basis of priority as official Government dispatches of the respective country. The Delegations enjoy also the right of dispatching and receiving couriers with sealed bags — which shall be exempted from examination — the total weight of sealed bags brought by such couriers not to exceed ten (10) kilograms per week.

(2) The official representatives and trade agents have the right of freely receiving by couriers or mail all sorts of periodicals and books, appearing in their own country, for their personal use or for the benefit of their staff.

(3) The Government of each country pledges itself to assist the respective Delegations to the best of its ability in finding residences and premises necessary for living and carrying on their work.

*Article 7.*

Passports, powers of attorney, and similar documents — issued or certified by the competent authorities in either country — shall be treated in the other country as if they were issued or certified by the authorities of a recognized foreign Government.

*Article 8.*

(1) The members of the Delegations and their staffs engage themselves to abstain from any political propaganda and not to interfere with the internal affairs of the respective country.

(2) The Delegations of both parties shall abstain from entering into any service or receiving any commission from any Government, firms, or private persons of any other country than their own.

*Article 9.*

(1) Norwegian and Russian merchant ships, their masters, crews, and cargoes, shall, in ports of Norway and Russia, respectively, receive in all respects the treatment, privileges, facilities, immunities, and protections which are usually accorded by the established practice of commercial nations to foreign merchant ships, their masters, crews, and cargoes visiting their ports, including the facilities usually accorded in respect of coal, water, pilotage, berthing, dry-docks, cranes, repairs, warehouse, and, generally, all services appliances and premises connected with merchant shipping.

(2) Each of the contracting parties consents to permit free transit of goods from and to the other country, in accordance with the laws of the respective countries, always provided that nothing in this stipulation shall entitle either party to claim the benefit of special transit agreements made by the other party with any third country. Such transit goods may be reshipped, stored or re-exported, subject to the restrictions resulting from the laws of the respective countries. They shall be exempt from custom duties and transit dues in any form.

*Article 10.*

Both contracting parties agree, simultaneously with the conclusion of the present Agreement, to renew exchange of private postal and telegraphic correspondence between both countries, as well as dispatch and acceptance of wireless messages in accordance with the existing international post and telegraph regulations. As regards telegraphy in cipher, the provisions of Article 6 herein shall apply.

*Article 11.*

The commercial agreements and transactions between the two countries should be based on the following principles, *viz.* :

(a) The monopoly of the foreign trade — as far as Russia is concerned — belongs to the Government of the R. S. F. S. R., which works through the Commissariat for Foreign Trade and its organisations.

(b) Every commercial agreement and transaction which has been made with some private persons or groups who are not working on behalf or with the consent of the Government of the R. S. F. S. R., will be regarded as a violation of such monopoly, with all consequences arising out of the Russian law in the matter.

(c) The monopolisation of the foreign trade by any party cannot be regarded by the other party as a reason for imposing any custom duties or claiming any compensation.

*Article 12.*

The present Agreement shall not prejudice any existing claims for the payment of compensation or the effecting of restitution of either party or of its nationals against the other party.

*Article 13.*

This Agreement shall enter into force as soon as ratified by both Governments. If either of the parties should wish to terminate the present Agreement, it should give six months' notice thereof. When such notice shall have been given, the only new transactions which shall be entered into under this Agreement shall be such as can be completed within the six months.

*Article 14.*

If the termination of this Agreement should be noticed or agreed upon, the official Delegations are accorded the right to stay in the country during the time necessary for the complete winding up of commercial transactions and the selling off or export of the goods belonging to their Governments, but not exceeding three months.

CHRISTIANIA, *September 2, 1921.*

(Signed) JOH. LUDW. MOWINCKEL (L.S.)

(Signed) P. M. KERGENTZEFF (L.S.)

Pour copie conforme.

K. GWERHOLT HANSEN,

*Directeur du Commerce.*