

## WAIVER OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR NETHERLANDS TERRITORY IN EUROPE

*Exchange of notes at The Hague July 30 and August 20, 1947  
Entered into force August 20, 1947; operative September 1, 1947*

61 Stat. 3838; Treaties and Other  
International Acts Series 1729

### *The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Embassy*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
LEGAL DEPARTMENT

No. 63638

Referring to the American Embassy's Memorandum of June 12th, 1947, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the honour to inform the Embassy that the Netherlands Government have decided to waive from the 15th of August next all visa requirements for American citizens who are the rightful bearers of valid American passports and who wish to proceed to the Netherlands either for a short stay or for transit.

The foregoing does not apply to the Netherlands overseas territories.

It should be well understood that otherwise the Netherlands legislation concerning sojourn, establishment and employment of foreigners in this country remains applicable to American citizens as before.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted with pleasure that the American Government contemplate granting to Netherlands subjects who intend to pay a temporary visit to the United States non-immigrant visas which would be valid for presentation at a port of entry at any time, or any number of times during a period of two years, provided that the passport of the applicant is valid for such period. Should the passport not be valid for the full period of two years at the time the visa is granted but later on be extended by the proper authorities for the full period of two years or more, the visa would be considered as valid for the full period of two years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would appreciate very much if the necessary instructions to that effect could be issued as soon as possible to all American representatives concerned abroad and to learn when those instructions will come into force.

THE HAGUE, 30th July, 1947

TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

[SEAL]

*The American Embassy to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*

No. 101

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Royal Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and has the honor to acknowledge with pleasure the Ministry's Note No. 63638 of July 30, 1947, regarding the decision of the Netherlands Government to waive from the 15th of August, 1947, all visa requirements for American citizens who are the rightful bearers of valid American passports and who wish to proceed to the Netherlands either for a short stay or for transit.

It is understood that the waiver does not apply to the Netherlands overseas territories and that Netherlands legislation concerning sojourn, establishment and employment of foreigners remains applicable to American citizens as before.

Pursuant to instructions from the Department of State, the Embassy may now inform the Ministry that American Consular Officers are being instructed, effective September 1, 1947, to grant non-immigrant visas valid for twenty-four months to Netherlands subjects as long as visa requirements are waived for American citizens proceeding to the Netherlands for a visit or in transit. Visas issued to government officials and members of international organizations under Sections 3(1) and 3(7) of the United States immigration laws will continue to be issued valid for twelve months. The waiver of passport visa fees for non-immigrant temporary visitors is continued.

In considering the period of validity for two years it should be understood that the visas granted would be valid for presentation at a port of entry at any time, or any number of times, during the two year period. It would have no relation to the period of stay in the country which may be granted to the bearer of such a visa if he is admitted into the country after inspection at the port of entry. In accordance with existing procedure, the immigration officials at the port of entry would continue to specify the authorized length of stay of an alien for each visit. In general the passport of an alien must be valid for a period of at least 60 days beyond the period of the alien's contemplated stay in the United States.

No visa granted for a period of two years would be valid for such period unless the passport or other acceptable travel document of the bearer is valid for such period. However, if the passport or travel document is not valid for the full period of two years at the time the visa is granted the passport or travel document may be extended by the issuing authority for the full period of two years or more, in which event the visa would be considered as valid for the full period of two years.

W. D. F.

THE HAGUE,  
*August 20, 1947.*