WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES
FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

Exchange of notes at London November 9 and 12, 1948
Entered into force November 12, 1948

62 Stat. 3824; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1926

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to the American
Chargé d’Affaires ad interim

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.
9th November, 1948

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you that, with a view to facilitating the move-
ment of citizens of the United States of America to this country, His Maj-
esty’s Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to abolish the visa
requirement for United States citizens travelling to the United Kingdom.

2. Accordingly, on and after the 12th November, United States citizens
will be free to travel from any place whatever to the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland without the necessity of obtaining a visa,
provided that they are furnished with valid United States passports. The
competent British officials are being instructed in this sense, and it is pro-
sosed to release to the Press a joint Foreign Office and Home Office an-
nouncement on the same date. I should be grateful if, on the American side,
any announcement of this news could be similarly delayed, so as to allow
time for the new procedure to be introduced smoothly.

3. You will appreciate that the abolition of the visa requirement does not
exempt United States citizens coming to the United Kingdom from the
necessity of complying with the laws and regulations of the United Kingdom
concerning the entry, residence (temporary or permanent) and employment
or occupation of foreigners, and travellers who are unable to satisfy the
immigration authorities that they comply with these laws and regulations
are liable to be refused leave to enter or land.

4. I am conveying this information to you in the confident belief that the
action we are taking will be for the mutual benefit of our two countries. I
would at the same time express the hope of His Majesty’s Government that,
as a measure of reciprocity, the United States Government will give the
greatest possible relief from United States visa charges and formalities to
British subjects who are *bona fide* non-immigrants within the meaning of the
immigration laws of the United States.

I have the honour to be with high consideration, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(For Mr. McNeil)

ROGER MAKINS

Mr. JULIUS C. HOLMES,
*etc.*, *etc.*, *etc.*.
1, Grosvenor Square,
*W. 1.*

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*The American Chargé d’Affaires ad interim to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs*

**AMERICAN EMBASSY**

**London, November 12, 1948**

**SIR:**

I have the honor to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the receipt of
your note, No. UR 7266/6229/G, dated November 9, 1948, informing me
that His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom has decided, effec-
tive November 12, 1948, to abolish the visa requirement for United States
citizens travelling to the United Kingdom.

The Department of State was informed immediately upon receipt of the
note under reference, of this gracious gesture of His Majesty’s Government,
and the Embassy has now been notified that the United States Govern-
ment—effective November 12—will grant to British subjects resident in the
United Kingdom, in possession of valid British passports, who are eligible
to enter the United States as *bona fide* non-immigrants, gratis passport visas,
and in cases of temporary visitors, such visas may be made valid for entries
over a period of 24 months, provided the passport concerned remains valid
for that period. The same arrangement will be put into effect outside the
United Kingdom for British subjects proceeding to the United States as
temporary visitors, who are resident within the United Kingdom, but who
are temporarily absent therefrom, as soon as American Diplomatic and Consular officers can be notified.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

JULIUS C. HOLMES

The Right Honorable

H. McNEIL, M.P.,

Minister of State,

Foreign Office,

London, S.W. 1