

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

ON VISA EXEMPTION

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republic of Iraq, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties";

Desirous of promoting their friendly relations;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

1. Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who are holders of valid diplomatic or official passports, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into, exit from and transit through the territory of the Republic of Iraq at the border-checking points designated for international travel.

Citizens of the Republic of Iraq, who are holders of valid diplomatic, official or service passports, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into, exit from and transit through the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the border-checking points designated for international travel.

2. The passport holders referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be permitted to stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party for a maximum period of 90 days. Upon the request in writing of the diplomatic mission or consular post of the Contracting Party whose citizens the passport holders are,

the other Contracting Party may extend residence permits for those passport holders.

Article 2

1. Members of the diplomatic mission or consular post of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam accredited to, or representatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to international organizations located in the territory of the Republic of Iraq, who are holders of diplomatic or official passports, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into and exit from the latter's territory, as well as be permitted to stay there during the period of their assignment.

Members of the diplomatic mission or consular post of the Republic of Iraq accredited to, or representatives of the Republic of Iraq to international organizations located in the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who are holders of diplomatic, official or service passports, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into and exit from the latter's territory, as well as be permitted to stay there during the period of their assignment.

2. The same privileges shall also be applied to the spouses and children of the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, provided that they are holders of diplomatic and official passports (for the Vietnamese side) and diplomatic, official or service passports (for the Iraqi side) or the children's names are entered in their father's or mother's passport.

Article 3

Through diplomatic channels, the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall, as soon as possible, inform each other of any changes in their respective laws and regulations concerning the entry, exit and stay of foreigners.

Article 4

1. This Agreement shall not exempt the holders of the said passports from the obligations of respecting laws and regulations in force in the territory of the host country.

2. Either Contracting Party shall reserve the right to refuse the entry or to shorten the duration of stay of any citizens of the other Contracting Party.

Article 5

If a citizen of one Contracting Party loses his/her passport in the territory of the other Contracting Party, he/she shall inform the authorities concerned of the host country for appropriate action. The diplomatic mission or consular post concerned will, in accordance with its laws and regulations, issue a fresh passport or travel document to its citizen and inform the competent authorities of the host country.

Article 6

For reasons of national security, public order or health, either Contracting Party may, in whole or in part, suspend the implementation of this Agreement. Such a suspension or an abolition of the suspension shall timely be notified to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

Each of the two Contracting Parties shall convey to other Party through diplomatic channels the specimens of their diplomatic, official or service passports being used by each Contracting Party or the specimens of any new passports, at least 30 (thirty) days before this Agreement comes into force or before the passports' introduction.

Article 8

1. This Agreement shall enter into force after the exchange of notes by the Contracting Parties, acknowledging that the domestic requirements for its entry into force have been complied with.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for 3 (three) years and shall be renewed automatically every 3 (three) years unless either Contracting Party informs the other Contracting Party in writing of its intention to terminate the Agreement. In such case, the Agreement shall cease to apply upon the completion of the period of 3 (three) months after the date of the other Contracting Party's receiving that notice.

3. This Agreement may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of the two Contracting Parties.

Done in duplicate at Hanoi on 13 June 2001, in Vietnamese, Arabic and English, all texts are equally authentic. In case of divergences in interpretation the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM



*Nguyen Van Nganh
Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs*

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ



*Dr. Nabil Najim
Under Secretary
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