

No. 5443

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement (with Protocol and annexes) concerning the
régime of the Finnish-Soviet State Frontier and the
procedure for the settlement of frontier incidents.
Signed at Helsinki, on 23 June 1960**

Official texts : Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 9 November 1960.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Traité (avec Protocole et annexes) relatif au régime de la
frontière d'État finlando-soviétique et au mode de
règlement des incidents de frontière. Signé à Helsinki,
le 23 juin 1960**

Textes officiels finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 9 novembre 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5443. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE RÉGIME OF THE FINNISH-SOVIET STATE FRONTIER AND THE PROCEDURE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF FRONTIER INCIDENTS. SIGNED AT HELSINKI, ON 23 JUNE 1960

The Government of the Republic of Finland of the one part and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the other part, desiring to determine the means necessary for properly maintaining the régime of the Finnish-Soviet State Frontier, and desiring also to prevent frontier incidents from arising or, if they do arise, to ensure their rapid investigation and settlement, have to that end resolved to conclude this Agreement and, in consequence, have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Government of the Republic of Finland : Mr. Ralf Törngren, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland ;

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics : Mr. A. V. Zakharov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the Republic of Finland,

who, having exhibited their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions :

PART I

COURSE OF THE FRONTIER LINE, FRONTIER MARKS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FRONTIER

Article 1

1. The line of the State frontier between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as established by the Peace Treaty of 14 October 1920² between the Republic of Finland and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the Treaty of Peace of 12 March 1940 between the Republic of Finland and the

¹ Came into force on 5 October 1960, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Moscow, in accordance with article 46.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. III, p. 5.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Treaty of 3 February 1947¹ between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the transfer to the territory of the Soviet Union of part of the State territory of Finland in the region of the Jäiskoski hydroelectric power station and the Niskakoski control dam, and the Treaty of Peace of 10 February 1947² between the Allied and Associated Powers of the one part and Finland of the other part, is the line on the ground as determined in the Descriptive Protocols relating to the frontier, the frontier maps, the Protocols relating to frontier marks and the other demarcation documents signed on 28 April 1938, 18 November 1940, 26 October 1945 and 7 December 1947 by the Mixed Republic of Finland and USSR Frontier Commissions.

2. The frontier line determined in the aforementioned documents shall also vertically divide the air space and the subsoil.

This frontier line shall be referred to in this Agreement as the "frontier" or the "frontier line".

Article 2

1. In sectors where it runs over land and also where it intersects standing or running waters, the frontier shall be an immovable line following a straight course from one frontier mark to the next.

2. In sectors where it follows running waters, including lakes, the frontier shall be a straight, broken or crooked line running from one frontier mark to the next and, in the case of a frontier river or stream, following the middle of the river or stream or the middle of the main branch thereof.

3. Islands in frontier rivers shall belong to the territory of one Party or the other, according to their position with regard to the frontier line.

Article 3

1. On frontier rivers and streams the course of the frontier line shall vary with the displacement of their middle line caused by natural variations in the conformation of the banks of such rivers and streams.

2. The variations referred to in paragraph 1 shall, as the need arises, be attested jointly by the competent authorities of the two Parties.

The documents attesting to variations in the middle line of frontier rivers and streams shall not be annexed to the principal demarcation documents, but shall be retained by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties responsible for maintaining the frontier sector concerned.

3. Variations in the bed of a frontier river or stream which are due to natural causes and which could involve a change in the territorial status of land, installations of material value, buildings, etc., shall not affect the course originally followed by the

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 216, p. 231.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 48, p. 203.

frontier line unless a special agreement to that effect is concluded by the Contracting Parties.

4. If, in the event of variations as referred to in paragraph 3, measures for restoring the frontier river or stream to its former bed prove to be impossible, the frontier line which originally followed the river or stream shall be defined in frontier documents by a Mixed Commission established for that purpose, and the said documents shall be annexed to the principal demarcation documents.

In the course of these operations, the frontier line which originally followed the river or stream may be straightened if it was formerly broken or crooked.

Article 4

1. The frontier shall be designated in the field by large wooden frontier posts, small wooden frontier posts, wooden and stone pyramids, reference marks and concrete marks or spars, as well as by trigonometric and other marks fixed on the frontier line and serving as frontier marks.

2. The description of each frontier mark and its position in relation to the frontier line shall be given in the appropriate demarcation documents.

3. Except by special agreement between the Contracting Parties, the frontier line may not be designated by any other means not accepted at the time of demarcation, nor may existing frontier marks be replaced by frontier marks of a different type.

Article 5

The Contracting Parties undertake so to maintain the frontier marks that have been set up to designate the frontier line between Finland and the USSR and also the frontier clearings that the position, appearance, form, size and colour of the frontier marks and the width and cleanness of the clearings meet all the requirements set forth in the frontier demarcation documents.

Article 6

The maintenance of frontier marks shall be shared by the Contracting Parties as follows :

1. Finland shall maintain those frontier marks which are in the territory of Finland ; the USSR shall maintain those frontier marks which are in the territory of the USSR.

2. Frontier marks and centre posts situated on the land frontier line itself shall be maintained as follows :

- (a) Marks bearing even numbers, by the USSR ;
- (b) Marks bearing odd numbers, by Finland.

3. Frontier marks situated on the sea frontier line itself in the sector of the Gulf of Finland south of and including spar buoy No. 6 shall be maintained by the Soviet Union and marks in the sector north of spar buoy No. 6, by Finland.

Article 7

1. A frontier clearing, throughout its width as determined in the course of the demarcation of the Finnish-Soviet frontier and as specified in the relevant decision of the Mixed Finnish-Soviet Demarcation Commissions, shall be maintained in good order and, when necessary, cleared of bushes and scrub obscuring it. No structures other than those necessary for marking the frontier may be erected in a frontier clearing. Land in a frontier clearing may not be ploughed except by agreement between the competent authorities of the two Parties.

2. Each Party shall clean the frontier clearing on its own territory. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other at least ten days before work on the cleaning of a frontier clearing begins. Representatives of the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party are entitled to be present during such work.

Article 8

1. Surveys of the condition and position of the frontier marks shall be made by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties at their discretion and in accordance with article 6. In addition to unilateral surveys, representatives of the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall make an annual joint control survey of the frontier marks.

2. In the case of the land frontier, the joint control survey of frontier marks shall be made in July; in the case of the sea frontier, it shall be made in spring not later than thirty days after the ice has broken up, and in winter within the same period after the ice has formed. The placing of spar buoys shall be carried out independently by each Contracting Party by the date of the joint control survey of the sea frontier.

The competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties shall agree on the exact dates of each particular joint control survey.

3. If it becomes necessary to make an extra joint survey of frontier marks in any year, the competent authorities of one Contracting Party shall give written notice to that effect to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party. The extra joint survey of frontier marks shall be made not later than ten days after such notice has been given by the competent authorities of one Contracting Party.

4. During a joint survey of frontier marks, control measurements may, if necessary, be made in the field. If the survey shows that the measurement figures