

No. 6949

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Agreement concerning the lease to the Republic of Finland of the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and Maly Vysotsky Island (with exchange of notes and annexed maps). Signed at Moscow, on 27 September 1962

Official texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 7 October 1963.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

Traité relatif à la cession à bail, à la République de Finlande, de la partie soviétique du canal de Saimaa et de l'île de Maly Vyssotsky (avec échange de notes et cartes annexées). Signé à Moscou, le 27 septembre 1962

Textes officiels finnois et russe.

Enregistré par la Finlande le 7 octobre 1963.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6949. AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE LEASE TO THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND OF THE SOVIET PART OF THE SAIMAA CANAL AND MALY VYSOTSKY ISLAND.
SIGNED IN MOSCOW, ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1962

The President of the Republic of Finland and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Considering that the friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics based on the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 1948² have been developing favourably and are founded on firm mutual trust, and being convinced that these relations will develop just as favourably in future,

Considering that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in compliance with the wishes of the Republic of Finland, agrees to lease the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal to the Republic of Finland,

Have agreed to conclude this Agreement and to that end have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The President of the Republic of Finland :

Veikko Savela, Minister of Transport and Public Works,

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :

Viktor Georgievich Bakaev, Minister of the Marine of the USSR,
who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form,
have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall lease to the Republic of Finland, for the transport of goods to or from the Republic of Finland, the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal together with a strip of bank averaging thirty metres wide on either side of the artificial channel of the canal (in the vicinity of locks, bridges and similar installations, up to 200 metres wide), the Soviet land area between

¹ Came into force on 27 August 1963 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Helsinki, in accordance with the provisions of article 19.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 48, p. 149 and Vol. 226, p. 338.

the Nuijamaa-Brusnichnoe (Juustila) road and the track of the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal (this road being included in the leased territory), and Maly Vysotsky (Ravansaari) Island for the trans-shipment and storage of goods. These areas are hereinafter referred to as the "leased territories". The boundaries of the leased territories are shown on the maps¹ attached to this Agreement.

The boundaries of the leased territories shall be determined by a field survey to be carried out by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Agreement. The boundary line may subsequently be adjusted on the basis of the plans for the reconstruction of the Canal and the road, upon which agreement is to be reached in accordance with article 4 of this Agreement.

Article 2

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agrees that non-military vessels of the Republic of Finland and trading vessels of third countries engaged in the commercial transport of goods or in towing to or from the Republic of Finland may pass through the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and through the internal and territorial waters of the Soviet Union along the fairway from the Saimaa Canal to the Gulf of Finland. Troops, armaments, ammunition and other military supplies may not be carried by these vessels.

Vessels of any kind sailing under the USSR flag shall have free passage through the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal. USSR vessels which use only that part of the Canal shall not be liable to payment of the prescribed tolls.

Article 3

Finland shall be responsible for the operation of the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and all the installations and equipment necessary for that purpose in the leased territories. The personnel engaged in servicing the Canal and the other leased territories or employed on the projects provided for in article 4 of this Agreement shall not include nationals of third countries.

Finland undertakes to maintain the aforementioned part of the Canal and the installations and equipment thereon in proper condition for normal operation.

In order to cover the cost of keeping the Canal open for navigation, Finland may impose and collect tolls for the passage of vessels through the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal.

¹ See insert in a pocket at the end of this volume.

Article 4

Finland shall, within five years and at its own expense, widen and deepen the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal, re-equip the locks, build bridges having a load capacity not less than the present ones, construct other necessary installations on the Canal and dredge a new fairway in Zashchitnaya Bay (Suomenvedenpohja) and Vyborg Bay. In addition, Finland shall, within time limits to be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties and at its own expense, set up storage areas and construct trans-shipment facilities on Maly Vysotsky Island.

The scope of these projects and their technical specifications and the technical specifications and operating procedure for the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and all other installations on the leased territories shall be agreed upon by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of Finland and the Ministry of the Marine of the USSR and the Ministry of River Transport of the RSFSR.

Article 5

The Soviet Union shall construct at Finland's expense the necessary engineering works (railway bridge, road bridge having a load capacity of sixty to sixty-five tons, embankments for these bridges and a road) to enable rail and road traffic to cross Kivisillansalmi Strait.

The scope, cost and procedure for payment of the projects for the construction of these facilities shall be determined by special agreement.

Article 6

Finland shall, in the leased territories, be entitled to erect the installations necessary for the operation of the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and for carrying out the projects provided for in article 4 of this Agreement and to build roads and provide housing and other premises and buildings necessary for the personnel engaged in servicing the leased territories or employed on the projects provided for in article 4 of this Agreement.

The Soviet Union shall be entitled, in return for a special payment and upon conditions to be determined by special agreement, to use electric power supplied from Finland to the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and the telephone and telegraph lines in the leased territories. The Soviet Union shall have the use of roads in the leased territories free of charge.

The Soviet Union shall, in return for a special payment and upon conditions to be determined by special agreement, supply Finland with electricity on Maly Vysotsky Island.

Article 7

Finland undertakes to make compensation for any damage suffered by the Soviet Union, its nationals or organizations or the nationals or organizations of third countries as a result of the construction provided for in article 4 of this Agreement or of the use of the leased territories.

Article 8

The navigations regulations in force in the Soviet Union shall be complied with in Zashchitnaya Bay, Vyborg Bay and the Gulf of Finland within the boundaries of the USSR.

The navigation regulations in force in the Finnish part of the Saimaa Canal shall be complied with in the Soviet part of the said Canal.

The period during which the Canal and the fairway leading to the Gulf of Finland may be used for navigation shall be determined each year with due regard to ice conditions by agreement between the plenipotentiaries referred to in article 14 of this Agreement. During the said period the Canal and the fairway shall be open to shipping twenty-four hours a day.

Article 9

Goods carried along the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal from one part of the Republic of Finland to another, from the Republic of Finland to a third country or from a third country to the Republic of Finland shall not be subject to customs or similar duties imposed by the USSR.

Goods, materials, machinery and equipment brought into the leased territories by Finland for the purposes of the projects provided for in this Agreement and for the operation of the Saimaa Canal shall likewise not be subject to such duties.

Article 10

From the time when the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal is put into operation, the Republic of Finland shall pay the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics an annual rental for the use of the Soviet part of the Saimaa Canal and the other leased territories in accordance with the following scale:

For a freight turnover of less than 1.0 million tons, 180,000 roubles;
For a freight turnover between 1.0 and 1.5 million tons, 210,000 roubles;
For a freight turnover between 1.5 and 2.0 million tons, 240,000 roubles;
For a freight turnover of more than 2.0 million tons, 260,000 roubles.