

No. 7315

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA
and
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Convention concerning assistance in the event of natural disasters. Signed at Prague, on 6 October 1956

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement amending the above-mentioned Convention. Prague, 17 and 28 May 1963

Official texts: Czech and German.

Registered by Czechoslovakia on 24 June 1964.

**TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

Convention relative à l'assistance mutuelle en cas de calamités naturelles. Signée à Prague, le 6 octobre 1956

Échange de notes constituant un avenant à la Convention susmentionnée. Prague, 17 et 28 mai 1963

Textes officiels tchèque et allemand.

Enregistrés par la Tchécoslovaquie le 24 juin 1964.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 7315. CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONCERNING ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS. SIGNED AT PRAGUE, ON 6 OCTOBER 1956

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Government of the German Democratic Republic, desiring to render assistance to each other in the event of natural disasters in their frontier areas, have decided for that purpose to conclude the following Convention :

Article I

(1) For the purpose of mutual assistance in the event of natural disasters or other emergency situations which have arisen in the frontier areas of the two Contracting Parties, at places situated not more than fifteen kilometres from the State frontier, fire-fighting detachments, assistance crews, physicians and health service staff of one Contracting Party may at any time, at the request of the other Contracting Party, cross the State frontier at the points enumerated in article II without the usual travel documents and may remain in the territory of the latter Contracting Party for such time as their assistance is required.

(2) Requests for the sending of assistance shall be made by the endangered community through the frontier authorities of its own State to the frontier authorities of the other Contracting Party, which shall be responsible for forwarding the request for assistance.

(3) When the territory of the other Contracting Party is entered, the frontier authorities shall ascertain the number of persons who cross the State frontier and the number of objects and pieces of equipment which are brought across the State frontier and which will be returned after the assistance has been rendered.

(4) Fire-engines (including those mounted on motor-vehicles), ambulances, automobiles and other vehicles, and also objects and equipment required for the rendering of assistance shall not be subject to customs or to the duties levied in connexion with customs, either on entering the territory of the other Contracting Party or on leaving it, provided that they are thereafter re-exported or returned.

¹ Came into force on 20 December 1956, upon the exchange of notes stating approval of the Convention in accordance with article VII.

(5) The return after the rendering of assistance has been concluded shall take place at the frontier crossing points which were used when entering the territory of the other Contracting Party.

(6) When rendering assistance, the persons referred to in paragraph (1) shall obey the instructions of the authorities directing the work at the site of the disaster.

Article II

Only the following frontier crossing points may be used in crossing the State frontier :

Vojtanov – Schönberg
Kraslice – Klingenthal
Potůčky – Johanngeorgenstadt
Vejprty – Bärenstein
Brandov – Oberneuschönberg
Mníšek – Deutsch-Einsiedel
Moldava – Holzhau
Fojtovice – Fürstenwalde
Petrovice – Hellendorf
Hřensko – Schmilka
Poustevna – Sebnitz
Šluknov – Taubenheim
Jířikov – Neugersdorf
Varnsdorf – Grossschönau
Hrádek n.N. – Harthau-Zittau

Article III

(1) In the event of flood or other natural disasters, nationals of each Contracting Party who live near the State frontier may, in order to save their lives, cross the State frontier at any place and at any time without the usual travel documents.

(2) The return of such nationals shall take place through the intermediary of the frontier authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

(3) The objects which such nationals bring with them shall not be subject to customs or to duties levied in connexion with customs, either on entering the territory of the other Contracting Party or on leaving it.

Article IV

(1) The costs incurred through the rendering of assistance in the cases referred to in articles I and III of this Convention shall be borne by the Con-

tracting Party which requested assistance or to whose nationals assistance was rendered.

(2) Such costs shall include, in particular, pecuniary compensation in the event of death, injury or damage to health suffered by a person rendering assistance and repayment of costs for loss of or damage to objects and equipment.

(3) The existence of a claim to compensation of any person who rendered assistance and the amount of such compensation shall be determined in accordance with the law of the State of the person concerned.

(4) Payment of costs in respect of reparation and compensation in compliance with paragraphs (1) to (3) of this article shall be made in accordance with the payments agreement in force between the two States at the time.

Article V

The Contracting Parties undertake to ensure that the persons rendering assistance and nationals referred to in articles I and III, who have crossed the State frontier in the cases mentioned in articles I and III, return to the territory of their own State, together with their property.

Article VI

This Convention is concluded for an unlimited period. It may be terminated at the request of either Contracting Party subject to six months' notice.

Article VII

This Convention is subject to approval in accordance with the domestic procedures of the two Contracting Parties in force at the time. It shall enter into force upon the exchange of notes stating that approval has been given.

DONE at Prague, on 6 October 1956, in duplicate in the Czech and German languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the Czechoslovak Republic :

V. DAVID

For the Government
of the German Democratic
Republic :

Bernard KOENEN