

Sweden and Norway

Agreement concerning the improvement of rescue services in frontier areas (with exchange of notes). Signed at Oslo on 19 March 1974

With a view to improving rescue services in frontier areas in time of peace the Governments of Sweden and Norway have agreed as follows.

Article 1

Search and rescue operations for persons in distress or feared to be in distress in the frontier areas between Sweden and Norway may, where it is deemed necessary, be extended to the land territory of the other State after notice is given by the police authorities — in Sweden the Police Commissioner (*polismästare*) and in Norway the Chief of Police (*politimester*) — to the corresponding police authorities of the other State. The police authorities of the State in which the search and rescue operation is being conducted may, at any time, take over the direction of the operation if the circumstances so require.

The equipment necessary for such search and rescue operations in the territory of the other State, including civilian snow vehicles and motor vehicles, may be introduced even if it does not meet the requirements applicable in the other country for the use of such vehicles. Dogs may be introduced irrespective of the veterinary import regulations of the two Contracting States. Equipment introduced shall be re-exported after completion of the operation.

After notice is given in accordance with the first paragraph of this article civil aircraft registered in Sweden or Norway and belonging to or used by the customs or police authorities may also be utilized for search and rescue operations subject to the regulations applicable in each country to such air traffic.

Article 2

Motor vehicles and motor-driven snow vehicles used for search and rescue operations shall be covered by traffic insurance. If under the laws or other regulations a Contracting State is not required to have such insurance coverage for vehicles owned or used by that State, the State concerned shall be required to

pay such compensation for damage occasioned by the use of such a vehicle as the injured party would have been entitled to claim from the insurer if traffic insurance coverage had existed.

In the case of damage caused during search and rescue operations in the territory of one Contracting State by equipment other than a vehicle of the kind referred to in the first paragraph of this article and owned or used by the other State, the latter State shall be liable for damages in accordance with the regulations concerning liability for damages applicable in the first-mentioned State.

Article 3

If the assistance of military personnel is required for search and rescue operations of the kind referred to in article 1, the senior police authority — in Sweden the County Police Commissioner (*Idnspolischef*) and in Norway the Chief of Police (*politimester*) — shall apply for permission through the corresponding police authority of the other State for the military personnel to enter the territory of that State unaccompanied by weapons.

The regulations laid down in article 1, second paragraph, and in article 2 concerning equipment shall also apply to military equipment of the same kind.

Article 4

Aircraft belonging to the armed forces may, in cases of emergency, be used for search and rescue operations of the kind referred to in article 1, after permission has been given in accordance with the procedure prescribed in article 3. Detailed instructions concerning such air activity shall be drawn up by the competent military authorities of each State.

Article 5

If it is feared in one country that a missing person is in a state of distress of the kind referred to in article 1 in the territory of the other State, the competent police authority shall so inform the corresponding police authority in the other State.

Article 6

Where, for the purpose of search and rescue operations in the State in which the missing person is being sought, assistance is required from personnel of the other country, the competent police authority may request such assistance from the corresponding police authority of the other State, in accordance with the provisions of articles 1, 3 and 4.

Article 7

The authorities of the two States shall give prompt consideration to requests for assistance made in accordance with articles 3 and 4 and shall otherwise facilitate the search and rescue operations undertaken under this Agreement in every way.

Article 8¹

This Agreement shall enter into force at the time of its signature. Article 4, however, shall enter into force only after the Contracting States have notified each other through the diplomatic channel that the instructions referred to in that article have been drawn up.

Either Contracting State may denounce the Agreement by giving six months' notice of denunciation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Oslo on 19 March 1974, in duplicate in the Swedish and Norwegian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Kingdom of Sweden:
YNGVE MOLLER

For the Kingdom of Norway:
KNUT FRYDENLU.ND

Oslo, 19 March 1974

Sir,

In connection with the signing today of the Agreement between Sweden and Norway concerning the improvement of rescue operations in frontier areas in time of peace and with reference to article 1, third paragraph, of the Agreement, I have the honour to inform you that the Swedish Government agrees that civil aircraft registered in Norway and not belonging to or utilized by the customs or police authorities may also be used for search and rescue operations in Swedish territory subject to the regulations applicable in Sweden to air activity of the kind in question.

If the Norwegian Government so agrees, I propose that this note and your note in reply should constitute an integral part of the Agreement between

Oslo, 19 March 1974

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of today's date, reading as follows in Norwegian translation:

In reply to your note I wish to inform you that the Norwegian Government agrees that your note and this note of reply shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement between Norway and Sweden for the improvement of rescue services in frontier areas in time of peace.

Accept, Sir, etc.

KNUT FRYDENLUND