STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1976 No. 768

MERCHANT SHIPPING

CIVIL AVIATION

The Consular Relations (Merchant Shipping and Civil Aviation) (Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) Order 1976

Made - - - -	*19th May* 1976
Laid before Parliament	*26th May* 1976
Coming into Operation	*On the date to be notified in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes*

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 19th day of May 1976

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on Her by sections 4, 5, 6 and 16(2) of the Consular Relations Act 1968(**a**) or otherwise in Her Majesty vested, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1. This Order may be cited as the Consular Relations (Merchant Shipping and Civil Aviation) (Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) Order 1976. It shall come into operation on the date on which the Consular Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic(**b**), signed at Prague on the 3rd of April 1975, enters into force. This date shall be notified in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes.

2.—(1) For the purposes of Articles 3 and 4 of this Order and for the purposes of section 6 of the Consular Relations Act 1968 as applied by virtue of Article 5 of this Order a ship shall be treated as belonging to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic if it is registered at a port of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

(2) For the purposes of this Order an aircraft shall be treated as belonging to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic if it is registered in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

(3) Nothing in this Order shall apply to any ship of war or military aircraft.

(4) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3. Proceedings relating to the remuneration or any contract of service of the master or commander or a member of the crew of any ship or aircraft belonging to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic shall not be entertained by any court in the United Kingdom unless a consular officer of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has been notified of the intention to invoke the jurisdiction of that court and has not objected within a period of two

(**a**) 1968 c. 18 (**b**) Cmnd. 6096. (**c**) 1889 c. 63.

weeks from the date of such notification and a statement to that effect is included among the details on which the claim is based at the time when the proceedings are commenced.

4. Where an offence is alleged to have been committed on board any ship belonging to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic by the master or a member of the crew, proceedings for the offence instituted otherwise than at the request or with the consent of a consular officer of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic shall not be entertained by any court in the United Kingdom, unless—

(*a*) the offence is alleged to have been committed—

(i) by or against a person who is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies, a British subject by virtue of sections 2, 13 or 16 of the British Nationality Act 1948(**a**) or the British Nationality Act 1965(**b**), or a British protected person within the meaning of the said Act of 1948 ; or

(ii) against a person other than the master or a member of the crew ; or

(*b*) the offence is one involving the tranquillity or safety of the territory or territorial waters of the United Kingdom, or the law relating to safety of life at sea, public health, pollution of navigable waters, wireless telegraphy, immigration or customs ; or

(*c*) the offence is one punishable (on a first conviction) with imprisonment for a term that may extend to five years or with a more severe sentence.

5. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is designated for the purposes of section 6 of the Consular Relations Act 1968 (which relates to detention on board ship for disciplinary offences).

N. E. Leigh

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order, which is made pursuant to the Consular Relations Act 1968, provides, in relation to ships and aircraft (other than ships of war and military aircraft) of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, for limiting the jurisdiction of the courts of the United Kingdom to entertain proceedings relating to the remuneration or any contract of service of the master or commander or a member of the crew. In relation to ships (other than ships of war) of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic it also provides,

(i) for limiting the jurisdiction of such courts over offences committed on board by the master or a member of the crew ;

(ii) for the detention on board of a member of the crew for a disciplinary offence to be treated as not unlawful except in certain cases.

It gives effect to the relevant provisions of the Consular Convention between the United Kingdom and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic which was signed at Prague on the 3rd April 1975 (Cmnd. 6096).

(**a**) 1948 c. 56. (**b**) 1965 c. 34.

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