AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

ON VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF

DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the Republic of Malta, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties";

Desiring to strengthen and develop the friendly relations between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

- 1. Citizens of one Party, who are holders of valid diplomatic passports, including biometric diplomatic passports when available, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into, exit from and transit through the territory of the other Party at the border checkpoints designated for international travel.
- 2. The persons mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article shall be permitted to stay in the territory of the other Party for a maximum period of ninety (90) days. Upon the request in writing of the diplomatic mission or consular post of the Party whose citizens are holders of a diplomatic passport, the other Party may extend the permit of residence for those persons accordingly.

Article 2

- 1. Citizens of one Party, who are members of the diplomatic mission or consular post of the sending country accredited to the other Party, shall be exempt from visa requirements for entry into and exit from the territory of the host Party during the whole period of their assignment, provided that they are holders of diplomatic passports as indicated in Article 1 hereof. Citizens of one Party representing of the sending country in the international organizations located in the territory of the host Party and who hold said passports shall enjoy the same privileges.
- 2. The same privileges shall also apply to the spouse and children of the persons mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this Article, provided that they are holders of diplomatic passports as indicated in Article 1 hereof or the children's names are included in their parent's passports.

Article 3

The competent authorities of the two Parties shall duly inform each other, through diplomatic channels, of changes of their laws and regulations concerning the entry, exit and temporary stay of foreigners.

Article 4

- 1. This Agreement shall not exempt citizens of either Party from the obligation to observe the laws and regulations of the host country.
- 2. Each Party has the right to refuse entry into or to shorten the duration of stay in its territory of any citizen of the other Party.

Article 5

If a holder of a valid diplomatic passport loses his/her passport in the territory of the other Party, the diplomatic mission or consular post of the

country of which he/she is a citizen shall issue a new substitute passport or travel document to this person and shall also inform the competent authorities of the other Party of such issuance.

Article 6

For reason of national security or public health, either Party may, in whole or in part, suspend the implementation of this Agreement. In that case, the Party deciding on the suspension shall immediately notify to the other of such a decision through diplomatic channels.

Article 7

The Parties shall convey to each other, through diplomatic channel, specimens of diplomatic passports being used at least thirty (30) days before the entry into force of this Agreement or specimens of new diplomatic passports at least thirty (30) days before their introduction.

Article 8

Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

Article 9

- 1. This Agreement shall enter into force sixty (60) days after the date of signing and shall be effective for an indefinite period.
- 2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels. Such termination shall take effect after ninety (90) days from the date of the receipt of such notice by the other Party.

3. This Agreement may be amended and supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties by written notification through diplomatic channels.

Done at Lixumburg on .OCT.II. L. L. in duplicate, each in the Vietnamese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Ro Chanh Son

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA