



Treaty Series No. 5 (1956)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the United States of America

for the Construction and Operation of a
Weather Station on Betio Island

Washington, November 15, 1955

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
February 1956*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
FOURPENCE NET

Cmd. 9693

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A WEATHER STATION ON BETIO ISLAND

Washington, November 15, 1955

No. 1

The United States Acting Secretary of State to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington

Department of State,

Excellency,

Washington, November 15, 1955.

I have the honour to refer to negotiations which have taken place between the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the desire of the United States Government to establish a weather station at Betio Island for a period of nine months. It is noted that the Government of the United Kingdom approves the request of the United States Government to construct and operate a weather station on Betio Island for a period of nine months on the following conditions :—

- (i) The United States forces and any other United States nationals present on Betio Island by reason of service or employment in connexion with the United States weather station will observe the laws and regulations of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and United States military Courts will be granted concurrent jurisdiction over persons subject to the United States uniform code of military justice. It is understood that the Government of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony will waive its right to exercise jurisdiction in all cases other than those of comparatively trivial offences against the local laws, but that in case of disagreement, the Colonial Government will be regarded as having the primary right to exercise jurisdiction.
- (ii) No wireless station, submarine cable, land line or other installations will be established by the United States authorities otherwise than strictly for the operational purposes of the weather station. Any wireless station, submarine cable, land line or other installation so established shall be sited and operated in such a way that it will not cause interference with established civil communications.
- (iii) The use of radio frequencies, powers and band-widths for radio services, including radar, shall be subject to the prior concurrence of the Resident Commissioner. Any radio station set up in connexion with the weather station may have to be licensed by the appropriate authority of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in accordance with the normal procedures.
- (iv) The United States Government will make available to Her Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand all the meteorological data collected by the station.

The United States Government agrees to these conditions.

The United States Government and the Government of the United Kingdom shall mutually decide upon the ultimate disposal of the weather station before it is evacuated by the United States Air Force.

The United States Government confirms that the results of observations will be made available to other interested Governments, and will specifically provide the New Zealand Government with—

- (a) upper air synoptic reports to be forwarded to Nadi for forecasting and inclusion in collective broadcasts, and
- (b) copies of upper air records for preparation of climatological data.

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, I propose that this Note and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments in this matter, the agreement to enter into force on the date of your Note in reply.

Accept, &c.

For the Acting Secretary of State:
WALWORTH BARBOUR.

No. 2

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the United States Acting Secretary of State

British Embassy,

Washington, November 15, 1955.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your Note of to-day's date in the following terms :—

[As in No. 1.]

2. Her Majesty's Government agree that your Note under reference and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the United States and Her Majesty's Government on the subject and that the agreement shall enter into force to-day.

I avail, &c.

ROGER MAKINS.

Printed and published by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from
York House, Kingsway, London W.C.2
423 Oxford Street, London W.1
P.O. Box 569, London S.E.1
13A Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
39 King Street, Manchester 2
Tower Lane, Bristol 1
2 Edmund Street, Birmingham 3
80 Chichester Street, Belfast
or through any bookseller

Price 4d. net

Printed in Great Britain