

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



Treaty Series No. 71 (1962)

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

concerning the use of the Airfield at
Wideawake in Ascension Island by aircraft
of the Royal Air Force

Washington, August 29, 1962

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1962*

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FIVEPENCE NET

Cmnd. 1869

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 CONCERNING THE USE OF THE AIRFIELD AT WIDEAWAKE IN ASCENSION ISLAND BY AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

No. 1

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

*British Embassy,
Washington, D.C.
August 29, 1962.*

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the technical discussions which have recently taken place between representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the use of the Airfield at Wideawake in Ascension Island by aircraft of the Royal Air Force. In these discussions agreement was reached in principle upon the following provisions:—

- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IV (2) of the Agreement of the 25th of June, 1956,⁽¹⁾ concerning the Extension of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground by the Establishment of Additional Sites in Ascension Island:
- (i) the Government of the United Kingdom shall have the right to land United Kingdom military aircraft at Wideawake Airfield upon receipt by the United States Commanding Officer at the Airfield of at least 24 hours advance notification of the arrival of any single aircraft and at least 72 hours advance notification of the arrival of groups of two or more aircraft;
 - (ii) in the event that additional logistic, administrative or operating facilities at the Airfield are considered by the Government of the United Kingdom to be necessary in connexion with its use by United Kingdom military aircraft, the Government of the United States shall permit the Government of the United Kingdom to establish, maintain and use such facilities in accordance with arrangements to be agreed between the United Kingdom and United States authorities.
- (b) Arrangements shall be made between the United Kingdom and United States authorities to ensure that the operation of the Long Range Proving Ground and the use of Wideawake Airfield by United Kingdom military aircraft are carried out in such a way as to avoid interference with one another.

⁽¹⁾ "Treaty Series No. 25 (1956)", Cmd. 9810.

(c) The Government of the United Kingdom shall reimburse the Government of the United States for any readily identifiable additional cost to the latter arising out of the use of Wideawake Airfield by United Kingdom military aircraft, including costs related to claims arising out of or incident to such use, subject to the terms of the Exchange of Notes of the 23rd of October 1946/23rd of January 1947⁽²⁾ between the two Governments for Mutual Forbearance concerning Claims against Members and Civilian Employees of their respective Armed Forces.

I now have the honour to confirm that the above provisions are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom and to propose that, if they are likewise acceptable to the Government of the United States, the present Note and your reply to that effect should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which shall enter into force on this day's date and shall continue in force for the duration of the Agreement of the 25th of June, 1956, referred to above.

I avail, etc.

HOOD.

No. 2

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

*Department of State,
Washington,
August 29, 1962.*

Sir,

I have received your note dated August 29, 1962, which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply, I wish to inform you that the above provisions are acceptable to the Government of the United States of America, which agrees that your note and this reply shall be regarded as constituting an agreement between the two Governments in this matter which shall enter into force on this day's date and shall continue in force for the duration of the agreement of June 25, 1956 referred to above.

Accept, etc.

For the Secretary of State:

WILLIAM C. BURDETT.

⁽²⁾ "Treaty Series No. 60 (1948)", Cmd. 7501.

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