

FRANCE



Treaty Series No. 20 (1980)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the French Republic
concerning the Establishment of Regions
in the New Hebrides

Paris, 23 October 1979

[The Agreement entered into force on 23 October 1979]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
January 1980*

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES**

No. 1

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic to
Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris*

*Ministère
des
Affaires Étrangères*

Paris, le 23 octobre 1979

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur de me référer à l'échange de lettres entre nos deux gouvernements intervenu ce même jour au sujet de l'Indépendance des Nouvelles-Hébrides et de proposer qu'en application de l'article 94 de la Constitution qui y est annexée, il soit procédé à la création de régions aux Nouvelles-Hébrides dans les conditions suivantes :

- 1) (a) La circonscription électorale de Santo, Malo et Aore et la circonscription électorale de Luganville constituent la région de Santo;
(b) La circonscription électorale de Tanna constitue la région de Tanna.
- 2) Les régions de Santo et de Tanna exercent leurs compétences dans le cadre des pouvoirs qui leur sont dévolus par l'Assemblée représentative, par l'intermédiaire de Conseils régionaux composés de membres élus et de chefs coutumiers.
- 3) Les Conseils régionaux de Santo et de Tanna comprennent chacun :
 - (a) quinze membres élus au suffrage universel direct. Le mode de scrutin est celui du scrutin de liste à la représentation proportionnelle.
 - (b) cinq chefs coutumiers élus par les autres membres du Conseil.
- 4) Aussitôt après leur élection, les Conseils régionaux de Santo et Tanna élisent parmi leurs membres leur président et leur bureau.
- 5) Les élections aux Conseils régionaux de Santo et Tanna ont lieu en même temps que les élections à l'Assemblée représentative suivant la signature de cet échange de lettres. La réglementation applicable aux élections à ladite Assemblée s'applique également aux élections aux Conseils régionaux de Santo et Tanna sous réserve des modifications qui peuvent y être apportées par règlement conjoint des Commissaires-Résidents, pris après consultation du Conseil des Ministres conformément au présent échange de lettres.
- 6) D'autres régions que celles de Santo et Tanna peuvent être créées par décision du Conseil des Ministres dans les conditions fixées par le présent

échange de lettres sous réserve des modifications nécessaires qui peuvent être apportées par règlement conjoint des Commissaires-Résidents, pris après consultation du Conseil des Ministres.

Si les présentes propositions rencontrent l'agrément du Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, j'ai l'honneur de suggérer que cette lettre et votre réponse constituent un accord entre les deux gouvernements qui entrera en vigueur à la date de votre réponse.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

BRUNO de LEUSSE de SYON

[Translation as in No. 2]

No. 2

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to the
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic*

*British Embassy,
Paris.*

23 October 1979

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter of today which reads as follows:

" Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Exchange of Notes between our two Governments dated this day⁽¹⁾ concerning Independence for the New Hebrides, and to propose that in pursuance of Article 94 of the Constitution annexed thereto, the establishment of regions in the New Hebrides should be provided for in the following terms:

1. (a) The electoral constituency of Santo, Malo and Aore and the electoral constituency of Luganville shall together constitute a Region known as Santo.
(b) The electoral constituency of Tanna shall constitute a Region known as Tanna.
2. The Santo and Tanna Regions shall exercise as of right through Regional Councils consisting of elected members and custom chiefs such powers as may be devolved to them by the Representative Assembly.
3. Each of the Regional Councils of Santo and Tanna shall consist of:
 - (a) fifteen members elected by direct universal suffrage. The method of election shall be proportional representation on the basis of lists.
 - (b) five Custom Chiefs elected by the other members of the Council.

⁽¹⁾ Treaty Series No. 17 (1980), Cmnd. 7808.

4. As soon as the Santo and Tanna Regional Councils are elected, they shall elect their Chairmen and Committees from among their own members.

5. Elections to the Santo and Tanna Regional Councils shall be held at the same time as the elections to the Representative Assembly following the signature of this Exchange of Notes. The legislation applicable to elections to that Assembly shall also apply to the elections to the Santo and Tanna Regional Councils, subject to such modifications as may be prescribed by the Resident Commissioners, by Joint Regulation made after consultation with the Council of Ministers, in conformity with this Exchange of Notes.

6. Regions other than Santo and Tanna may be established by order made by the Council of Ministers in accordance with this Exchange of Notes, subject to such modifications as may be prescribed by the Resident Commissioners by Joint Regulation made after consultation with the Council of Ministers.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to propose that this Note and your reply to that effect shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of your reply."

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which approves the suggestion of Your Excellency that your Note and the present reply constitute an agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force this day.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

REGINALD HIBBERT