

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



Treaty Series No. 49 (1997)

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 Establishment on Ascension Island of an Additional Facility to be operated on behalf of the United States Air Force

London, 15 July 1997 and 22 July 1997

[The Exchange of Notes entered into force on 22 July 1997]

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

August 1997

**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 ESTABLISHMENT ON ASCENSION ISLAND OF AN ADDITIONAL
FACILITY TO BE OPERATED ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED
STATES AIR FORCE**

No. 1

*The Ambassador for the United States of America at London to
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*

*American Embassy
London
15 July 1997*

No. 50

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning the Extension of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground by the Establishment of Additional Sites on Ascension Island, which was signed at Washington on the 25th of June, 1956,¹ as amended, in particular by the Exchange of Notes of 30 March 1973 concerning the expanded use of Ascension Island².

The Government of the United States now desires to establish on Ascension Island on a plot of land known as Devils Ashpit a facility to be operated on behalf of the United States Air Force for a project involving ionospheric propagation observations to determine the extent of distortion of Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency (VHF/UHF) signals as they travel out of the atmosphere and back to earth.

I have the honor to propose that the provisions of the aforesaid Agreement as amended should apply to this facility, and that its installation, operation and maintenance should be regarded as authorized, notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (3) of Article II and Article XIX of the Agreement. I further propose that the plot of land at Devils Ashpit on which the facility will be erected should be regarded as a site provided under the terms of Article IV of the Agreement. The exact topographical definition of the site and any easements shall be definitely established by arrangements between the United States authorities and the United Kingdom authorities, as shall precise details of when, and for how long, transmission shall occur. I confirm that the facility shall be operated taking full account of local concerns and so as to protect human health and the quality of the environment in and around Ascension Island.

I further have the honor to suggest that the Exchange of Notes Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning the Establishment on Ascension Island of a Facility to be Operated for the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, dated 7 July 1965³, as amended by an Exchange of Notes between our two Governments, dated 18 November 1980 and 19 December 1980⁴, be terminated from the date of your reply to this Note.

¹Treaty Series No. 25 (1956) Cmd. 9810 and Treaty Series No. 77 (1959) Cmnd. 867.

²Treaty Series No. 55 (1973) Cmnd. 5311.

³Treaty Series No. 74 (1965) Cmnd. 2761.

⁴Treaty Series No. 13 (1981) Cmnd. 8166.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honor to suggest 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 and remain in force until midnight on 31 July 1999.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR.

No. 2

*The Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Ambassador for the
United States of America at London*

*Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London*

22 July 1997

Note No: SAP/004/7/97

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of the 15 of July, 1997, which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply, I wish to inform your Excellency that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who therefore agree that your Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on this date and remain in force until midnight on 31 July 1999.

I have the honour to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State

JOHN S DUNCAN

