



Treaty Series No. 48 (2004)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway  
concerning the Playfair and Boa Petroleum Fields

Oslo, 30 September and 4 October 2004

[The Exchange of Notes entered into force on 4 October 2004]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
November 2004*

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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 KINGDOM OF NORWAY  
CONCERNING THE  
PLAYFAIR AND BOA PETROLEUM FIELDS**

No. 1

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway to the British  
Ambassador at Oslo*

Oslo  
30 September 2004

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Article 4 of the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway of 10 March 1965<sup>1</sup> and to recent discussions that have taken place between our two Governments concerning the petroleum fields known as Playfair and Boa.

Having regard to practical considerations related to the limited size and the particular features of the two fields, I now have the honour to make the following proposals

a) In this Note,

"Playfair field" means that area bounded by the geographical co-ordinates set out in Annex A; and

"Boa field" means that area bounded by the geographical co-ordinates set out in Annex B.

b) In accordance with Article 3(4) of the Agreement between the two Governments relating to the Exploitation of the Murchison Field Reservoir, done at Oslo on 16 October 1979<sup>2</sup>, the Playfair field shall be treated as if no part of the reservoir underlies the Murchison Area.

c) Having regard to the fact that, whilst both the Playfair and Boa fields extend across the Delimitation Line as provided for in the said Agreement of 10 March 1965 and the Protocol supplementary to that Agreement of 22 December 1978, the field development proposals for each field do not currently foresee a substantial contribution from that part of the field on the Norwegian Continental Shelf in respect of the Playfair field or from that part of the field on

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<sup>1</sup> Treaty Series No. 71 (1965) Cmnd 2757 Delimitation of the Continental Shelf between the two Countries

<sup>2</sup> Treaty Series No. 39 (1981) Cmnd 8270

the United Kingdom Continental Shelf in respect of the Boa field, and provided that,

- i) in respect of the Playfair Field, no activities take place on the Continental Shelf of Norway, or
- ii) in respect of the Boa field, no activities take place on the Continental Shelf of the United Kingdom,

the two Governments shall treat the field or fields in question as though no part extends on to the Continental Shelf of Norway in respect of the Playfair field and / or no part extends on to the Continental Shelf of the United Kingdom in respect of the Boa field. It is understood that the reference to activities on the Continental Shelf includes activities on the seabed and in its subsoil, but excludes the acquisition of seismic data. Approval to acquire seismic data will be required from the appropriate Government.

d) In the event that, at some future date:

- i) in respect of Playfair, that part of the reservoir located on the Continental Shelf of Norway , and / or
- ii) in respect of Boa, that part of the reservoir located on the Continental Shelf of the United Kingdom,

is / are making a substantial contribution to economic recovery from the field or fields in question (including the case where the field development needs to be modified to enable further economic recovery and where a facility or facilities is / are required on that Continental Shelf and/or a well or wells drilled in to that Continental Shelf), the two Governments shall agree as to how the field or fields should be effectively exploited, and how the incremental reserves and incremental costs should be allocated between their respective licensees. However, if the two Governments are unable to agree that there is a substantial contribution to economic recovery from that part of the reservoir which is located on the adjacent Continental Shelf, and/or the amount of incremental reserves and/or how the incremental reserves and/or incremental costs are to be allocated between the licensees of each Government, the two Governments shall appoint an expert acceptable to both to decide the issue or issues in question, unless the two Governments agree upon some other method of resolution. If it is decided that there is a substantial contribution to economic recovery from that part of the reservoir which is located on the adjacent Continental Shelf, the two Governments shall agree as to how the field or fields should be effectively exploited.

e) The two Governments shall agree arrangements for the exchange of information necessary to reach a view on the matters set out in paragraph (d) above.

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, together with your reply to that effect, shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of your reply.

**JAN PETERSEN**

## ANNEX A

### PLAYFAIR FIELD

For the purposes of this Exchange of Notes only, the Playfair field means that area bounded by a set of lines of latitude and longitude described as follows:

Starting position	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 35'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 43' 41'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 35'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 43' 20'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 20'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 43' 20'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 20'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 42' 15'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 26' 15'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 42' 15'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 26' 15'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 44' 00'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 26' 50'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 44' 00'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 26' 50'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 44' 08'' E; thence to

On the Norwegian Continental Shelf, limited stratigraphically to below the Base Cretaceous Unconformity.

	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 44' 03'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 27' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 45' 00'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 28' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 45' 00'' E; thence to
	61 <sup>0</sup> 28' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 43' 27'' E; thence to

the starting position

ANNEX B

BOA FIELD

For the purposes of this Exchange of Notes only, the Boa field means that area bounded by a set of lines of latitude and longitude described as follows:

On the United Kingdom Continental Shelf down to a depth of 8000 feet beneath mean sea level

Starting Position	59 <sup>0</sup> 36' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 53' 47'' E; thence to
	59 <sup>0</sup> 36' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 50' 00'' E; thence to
	59 <sup>0</sup> 33' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 50' 00'' E; thence to
	59 <sup>0</sup> 33' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 51' 59'' E; thence to

On the Norwegian Continental Shelf, limited stratigraphically to all levels younger than Base Tertiary.

59 <sup>0</sup> 33' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 54' 00'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 34' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 54' 00'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 34' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 56' 00'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 35' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 56' 00'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 35' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 57' 30'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 36' 30'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 57' 30'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 36' 30'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 54' 30'' E; thence to
59 <sup>0</sup> 36' 00'' N	01 <sup>0</sup> 54' 30'' E; thence to

the starting position

No. 2

*The British Ambassador at Oslo to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway*

British Embassy  
Oslo  
4 October 2004

Your Excellency

I refer to your Note of 30 September 2004 concerning the two petroleum fields known as Playfair and Boa.

The proposals contained in the aforesaid Note are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I therefore have the honour to agree that your Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway that will enter into force immediately.

**MARIOT LESLIE**

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