



Treaty Series No. 21 (1940)

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

REGARDING

UNITED STATES DESTROYERS

AND

NAVAL AND AIR FACILITIES FOR  
THE UNITED STATES IN BRITISH  
TRANSATLANTIC TERRITORIES

Washington, September 2, 1940

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 125 George Street, Edinburgh 2;

26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;

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1940

Price 1*d.* net

Cmd. 6224

EXCHANGE OF NOTES REGARDING UNITED STATES  
DESTROYERS AND NAVAL AND AIR FACILITIES FOR  
THE UNITED STATES IN BRITISH TRANSATLANTIC  
TERRITORIES.

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*Washington, September 2, 1940.*

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No. 1.

*The Marquess of Lothian to Mr. Cordell Hull.*

Sir, *Washington, September 2, 1940.*

I HAVE the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inform you that in view of the basis of friendship and sympathetic interest of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in the national security of the United States and their desire to strengthen the ability of the United States to co-operate effectively with other nations of the Americas in defence of the Western Hemisphere, His Majesty's Government will secure the grant to the Government of the United States, freely and without consideration, of the lease for immediate establishment and use of Naval and Air bases and facilities for the entrance thereto and operation and protection thereof, on the Avalon Peninsula and on the southern coast of Newfoundland, and on the east coast and on the Great Bay of Bermuda.

Furthermore, in view of the above and in view of the desire of the United States to acquire additional Air and Naval bases in the Caribbean and in British Guiana, and without endeavouring to place a monetary or commercial value upon the many tangible and intangible rights and properties involved, His Majesty's Government will make available to the United States for immediate establishment and use of Naval and Air bases and facilities for entrance thereto and operation and protection thereof, on the Eastern side of the Bahamas, the Southern coast of Jamaica, the Western coast of St. Lucia, the West coast of Trinidad, in the Gulf of Paria, in the Island of Antigua, and in British Guiana within fifty miles of Georgetown, in exchange for Naval and Military equipment and material which the United States will transfer to His Majesty's Government.

All of the bases and facilities referred to in the preceding paragraphs will be leased to the United States for a period of ninety-nine years free from all rent and charges other than such compensation to be mutually agreed on to be paid by the United States in order to compensate the owners of private property for the loss by expropriation or damage arising out of the establishment of the bases and facilities in question.

His Majesty's Government in the leases to be agreed upon will grant to the United States for the period of the leases all the rights, power and authority within the bases leased, and within the limits of territorial waters and air spaces adjacent or in the vicinity of such bases, necessary to provide access to and defence of such bases and appropriate provisions for their control.

Without prejudice to the above-mentioned rights of the United States authorities and their jurisdiction within the leased areas, the adjustment and reconciliation between the jurisdiction of the authorities of the United States within these areas and the jurisdiction of the authorities of the territories in which those areas are situated shall be determined by common agreement.

The exact location and bounds of the aforesaid bases, the necessary seaward, coast and anti-aircraft defences, the location of sufficient military garrisons, stores and other necessary auxiliary facilities shall be determined by common agreement.

His Majesty's Government are prepared to designate immediately experts to meet with experts of the United States for these purposes. Should these experts be unable to agree in any particular situation except in the case of Newfoundland and Bermuda, the matter shall be settled by the Secretary of State of the United States and His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.  
LOTHIAN.

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No. 2.

*Mr. Cordell Hull to the Marquess of Lothian.*

Excellency,

*Washington, September 2, 1940.*

I HAVE received your note of 2nd September, 1940, of which the text is as follows:—

[As in No. 1.]

I am directed by the President to reply to your note as follows:—

“The Government of the United States appreciates the declarations and the generous action of His Majesty's Government, as contained in your communications, which are destined to enhance the national security of the United States and greatly to strengthen its ability to co-operate effectively with the other nations of the Americas in the defence of the Western Hemisphere. It therefore gladly accepts the proposals.

“The Government of the United States will immediately designate experts to meet with experts designated by His Majesty's Government to determine upon the exact location of

Naval and Air bases mentioned in your communication under acknowledgment.

“In consideration of the declarations above quoted, the Government of the United States will immediately transfer to His Majesty's Government fifty United States Navy Destroyers generally referred to as the 1,200-tons type.”

Accept, &c.

CORDELL HULL.