



Treaty Series No. 39 (1946)

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

CONCERNING THE REVERSION OF THE REYKJAVIK
AIRFIELD TO THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT

REYKJAVIK, 12TH OCTOBER, 1944

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

LONDON
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
ONE PENNY NET

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ICELAND CONCERNING THE REVERSION OF THE
REYKJAVIK AIRFIELD TO THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT.

Reykjavik, 12th October, 1944.

No. 1.

Mr. Shepherd to M. Vilhjalmur Thór.

British Legation,

M. le Ministre,

Reykjavik, 12th October, 1944.

IN accordance with instructions received from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs regarding the Reykjavik airfield, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland propose an arrangement in the following terms:—

2.—(a) His Majesty's Government agree for their part that the Reykjavik airfield, runways and all immovable installations constructed thereon shall, on the conclusion of the present war, revert to and become the undisputed property of the Republic of Iceland without any payment or obligations of any kind.

(b) The Icelandic Government for their part agree that, upon the return of the land and transfer of the immovable installations thereon to the Icelandic Government, British nationals and aviation interests shall possess unconditional and unrestricted most-favoured-nation rights with respect to the use of the airfield.

(c) It is further understood that there shall be no discrimination against British interests due to the fact that British nationals and aviation interests are not at this time granted treatment equal to that enjoyed by Icelandic nationals and aviation interests.

(d) It is understood that the terms "British interests" and "British nationals and aviation interests" used in clauses (b) and (c) above mean the nationals, interests and aviation interests of any part of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

3. If the Icelandic Government are prepared to accept the foregoing proposals, I have the honour to suggest that the present note and your Excellency's reply to that effect be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.

G. SHEPHERD.

No. 2.

*M. Vilhjalmur Thór to Mr. Shepherd.**Ministry for Foreign Affairs,*

M. le Ministre,

Reykjavik, 12th October, 1944.

I HAVE the honour to refer to our conversation to-day in my office at which your Excellency handed me a note of to-day's date, in which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland agree to the reversion of the Reykjavik airdrome to the Icelandic Government on the following conditions:—

[As in paragraphs 2 and 3 of No. 1.]

I accept on behalf of the Icelandic Government the conditions set forth in your Excellency's note quoted above as constituting an Agreement between the Government of Iceland and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I have, &c.

VILHJALMUR THÓR.

LONDON

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