



Treaty Series No. 58 (1955)

## 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  
amending the Agreement of the  
21st of July, 1950, for the Establishment  
in the Bahama Islands of a Long-Range  
Proving Ground for Guided Missiles

Washington, July 11/22, 1955

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament  
by Command of Her Majesty  
September 1955*

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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 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AMENDING THE AGREEMENT OF THE 21st OF JULY, 1950, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE BAHAMA ISLANDS OF A LONG-RANGE PROVING GROUND FOR GUIDED MISSILES**

*Washington, July 11/22, 1955*

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the United States  
Secretary of State*

*British Embassy,*

Sir,

*Washington, D.C., July 11, 1955.*

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America, signed at Washington on the 21st of July, 1950,<sup>(1)</sup> for the establishment in the Bahama Islands of a long-range proving ground for guided missiles. Paragraph 3 of Article XI of that Agreement provides that:—

“Commercial aircraft shall not be authorised to operate from any of the Sites (save in case of emergency or for strictly military purposes under supervision of the Army, Navy or Air Force Departments) except by agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America.”

2. I now have the honour to propose that certain facilities at the Sites at Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera), Mayaguana and San Salvador shall be open for regular use by civil aircraft in accordance with the following provisions:—

- (a) Licensed civil air carriers who offer scheduled civil air services within the territory of the Bahama Islands and who are designated by the Government of the Bahama Islands to operate at one or more of the Sites, will be authorised, for the purpose of inter-island air services within the Bahamas only, to use the runways, taxiways, parking areas, and necessary access ways at the Sites concerned for landing, taking off and taking on or discharging passengers, mail or cargo in accordance with the provisions herein set forth.
- (b) The frequency and time-schedules of civil air operations will be in accordance with schedules approved by the United States Air Force. Advance notice of cancellations of scheduled flights will be given to the United States Air Force. No other changes of agreed schedules will be made without the approval of the United States Air Force.
- (c) Administrative and operational control of the Sites for civil aviation purposes will be exercised by the United States Air Force.
- (d) Civil air carriers authorised to use the Sites will comply with applicable United States Air Force Regulations, including the

<sup>(1)</sup> “Treaty Series No. 74 (1950),” Cmd. 8109.

regulations prescribing landing and parking fees and agreements regarding liability.

- (e) The United States Air Force may, for military or security purposes, limit or suspend civil air operations at the Sites.
- (f) The Government of the Bahama Islands will establish and maintain at the Sites such lights, aids to landing and navigation and safety devices as may be agreed to be necessary and suitable by the United States Air Force and the appropriate authorities of the Government of the Bahama Islands.

3. If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America, I suggest that the present Note and your reply in that sense should be regarded as constituting an agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which shall enter into force immediately and shall remain in force until six months after either Government shall have given written notice to the other of its intention to terminate it.

I avail, &c.  
ROGER MAKINS.

No. 2

*The United States Acting Secretary of State to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington*

*Department of State,*

*Washington, July 22, 1955.*

Excellency:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note dated July 11, 1955, referring to the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America signed at Washington on July 21, 1950, for the establishment in the Bahama Islands of a long-range proving ground for guided missiles. Paragraph 3 of Article XI of that Agreement provides that:—

“Commercial aircraft shall not be authorised to operate from any of the Sites (save in case of emergency or for strictly military purposes under supervision of the Army, Navy or Air Force Departments) except by agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America.”

You propose that certain facilities at the Sites at Governor's Harbour (Eleuthera), Mayaguana and San Salvador shall be open for regular use by civil aircraft in accordance with the following provisions:—

- “(a) Licensed civil air carriers who offer scheduled civil air services within the territory of the Bahama Islands and who are designated by the Government of the Bahama Islands to operate at one or more of the Sites, will be authorised, for the purpose of inter-island air services within the Bahamas only, to use the runways, taxiways, parking areas, and necessary access ways at the Sites concerned for landing, taking off and taking on or discharging passengers, mail or cargo in accordance with the provisions herein set forth.
- “(b) The frequency and time-schedules of civil air operations will be in accordance with schedules approved by the United States Air Force.

Advance notice of cancellations of scheduled flights will be given to the United States Air Force. No other changes of agreed schedules will be made without the approval of the United States Air Force.

- “(c) Administrative and operational control of the Sites for civil aviation purposes will be exercised by the United States Air Force.
- “(d) Civil air carriers authorised to use the Sites will comply with applicable United States Air Force Regulations, including the regulations prescribing landing and parking fees and agreements regarding liability.
- “(e) The United States Air Force may, for military or security purposes, limit or suspend civil air operations at the Sites.
- “(f) The Government of the Bahama Islands will establish and maintain at the Sites such lights, aids to landing and navigation and safety devices as may be agreed to be necessary and suitable by the United States Air Force and the appropriate authorities of the Government of the Bahama Islands.”

Your proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United States, and your Note of July 11, 1955, and this reply shall be regarded as constituting an agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom concerning this matter, which shall enter into force immediately and shall remain in force until six months after either Government shall have given written notice to the other of its intention to terminate it.

Accept, &c.

(For the Acting Secretary of State),

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