

UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA



Treaty Series No. 45 (1961)

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, for Scientific
Purposes, of a Space Vehicle Tracking
and Communications Station
in Bermuda

Washington, March 15, 1961

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
June 1961*

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

FOURPENCE NET

Cmd. 1388

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

Department of State,

Washington, March 15, 1961.

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the desire of the Government of the United States of America to conduct in Bermuda, through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), certain tracking and communications activities required for Project MERCURY. Project MERCURY involves the installation and operation of a special world-wide tracking and communication system to provide information on the location and progress of a manned space capsule to be launched from a site in the United States and to permit the exercise of command functions for emergency or final landings of the space vehicle. It is contemplated that a number of ground stations will be established for such functions. One such station is desired in Bermuda.

The relatively small area required for such activities in Bermuda could be made available by the United States Air Force, during the period of the NASA Project, within the existing leased bases areas presently being utilized by the United States under the Leased Bases Agreement of March 27, 1941,⁽¹⁾ and subsequent related Agreements. The major function of the Bermuda station would be to determine whether the capsule has been properly placed in orbit and, if the trajectory is not acceptable, to effect an emergency landing in a predetermined area.

For this purpose, NASA would install and operate the necessary tracking, computing, telemetry, and control equipment at the following locations available to the United States Air Force: Cooper's Island, Town Hill, Paynter's Hill, and Skinner's Hill. The installations would occupy approximately eleven acres. It is understood that approximately twenty-five NASA personnel would be required for the maintenance and operation of the facilities. Construction would be performed by a United States contractor who would obtain employees locally and in the United States.

I accordingly have the honor to propose that the Government of the United States be authorized to install and operate the tracking and communications facilities required for Project MERCURY in Bermuda for the purposes and in the manner set out above.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of such activities, I also propose that the provisions of the Leased Bases Agreement of March 27, 1941 and subsequent related Agreements (hereinafter together referred to as "the Agreements") in the fields of immigration, jurisdiction, taxation, and the payment of customs and other duties on personal belongings and household effects should be applied to persons entering Bermuda for the purpose of Project MERCURY (other than persons already covered by the Agreements) as if such persons were persons employed by or under a contract with the Government of the United States in connection with the construction,

⁽¹⁾ "Treaty Series No. 2 (1941)", Cmd. 6259.

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maintenance, operation, or defense of the Leased Bases and, where such persons are nationals of the United States, as if their residence in Bermuda for the purpose of Project MERCURY were residence in the territory by reason only of their employment therein in connection with the construction, maintenance, operation or defense of the said Bases.

I further propose that the provisions of the Agreements in the field of payment of customs and other duties on material, equipment, supplies, or goods, should be applied to material, equipment, supplies, or goods the property of the Government of the United States and introduced into Bermuda in connection with Project MERCURY, as if such material, equipment, supplies, or goods were for use in the construction, maintenance, operation, or defense of the said Bases.

The Government of the United States would make available to the Government of the United Kingdom all data obtained by the station and other relevant technical information obtained in the operation thereof, as well as all such information obtained in the general operation of Project MERCURY as the Government of the United Kingdom may require.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honor to propose that this note and Your Excellency's reply to that effect shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of Your Excellency's note in reply.

Accept, &c.

For the Secretary of State:

IVAN B. WHITE.

No. 2

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

British Embassy,

Washington, D.C., March 15, 1961.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of to-day's date about the establishment in Bermuda of a Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Station in connexion with the manned satellite programme of the Government of the United States of America, known as "Project MERCURY", which Note reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

2. I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, who therefore agree that your Note, together with the present reply, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on to-day's date.

I avail, &c.

HAROLD CACCIA.

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