

UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA



Treaty Series No. 65 (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  
on the setting up of a Missile Defence  
Alarm System Station in the  
United Kingdom

London, July 18, 1961

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

LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

FOURPENCE NET

Cmnd. 1444

**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 ON THE SETTING UP OF A MISSILE DEFENCE ALARM SYSTEM STATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

No. 1

*The United States Ambassador at London to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs*

*Embassy of the United States of America,*

*London, July 18, 1961.*

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to discussions which have taken place between representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Government of the United States of America on the subject of co-operation between the two Governments in setting up and operating a Missile Defense Alarm System (MIDAS) ground read-out station at Royal Air Force Station, Kirkbride, Cumberland.

I also have the honor to record that in support of the purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty<sup>(1)</sup> and of the obligations of the Parties thereto, the representatives of the two Governments have agreed to the terms set out in the memorandum attached hereto regarding the proposed co-operation in setting up and operating the MIDAS ground read-out station.

Accordingly, I have the honor to propose that this Note and your reply to that effect shall be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments in the terms set out in the annexed memorandum and that such Agreement shall have effect from the date of your reply.

Accept, etc.

DAVID K. E. BRUCE.

**MEMORANDUM**

In order to improve the United States and United Kingdom missile detection systems, the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom shall co-operate in setting up at Royal Air Force Station, Kirkbride, Cumberland, a ground read-out station of the Missile Defence Alarm System (MIDAS), which is now under development by the United States.

2. (a) During the installation phase the station shall be jointly manned and operated under arrangements to be agreed by the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force.

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(1) "Treaty Series No. 56 (1949)", Cmd. 7789.

(b) The station shall be declared operational on a mutually agreed date. The Royal Air Force shall command the station when it becomes operational, and the technical facilities shall be operated by the Royal Air Force in accordance with a joint plan to be agreed by the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force.

3. The Government of the United States shall, at their expense, make available for the station:—

- (a) all special equipment for MIDAS;
- (b) subject to paragraph 5 below, spare parts for the above equipment in amounts and kinds appropriate to the first five years of operation.

Responsibility for the cost of the subsequent provision of spare parts for the above equipment shall be the subject of further agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom.

4. The Government of the United States shall, at their expense, be responsible for installing the special equipment for MIDAS and preparing it for operation.

- 5. The Government of the United States shall meet the expense of:—
- (a) constructing or providing at Royal Air Force Station, Kirkbride, new buildings, utilities and other fixed installations to meet the technical requirements of MIDAS;
- (b) rehabilitating or adapting existing buildings, utilities and fixed installations needed for the same purpose.

The Government of the United Kingdom shall reimburse the Government of the United States in sterling, within an agreed limit, for the cost of these works services, against deliveries of spare parts as provided for in paragraph 3 (b) above.

6. The Government of the United Kingdom shall, at their expense, make available for the station:—

- (a) all land, sites, and existing buildings, utilities, including power plant, and other fixed installations at Royal Air Force Station, Kirkbride, needed to meet the technical requirements of MIDAS;
- (b) all supporting facilities and equipment except as provided in paragraph 3 above;
- (c) domestic accommodation, including necessary equipment, utilities and services for the United Kingdom and United States personnel concerned, to Royal Air Force scales and standards;
- (d) support services.

7. The Government of the United Kingdom shall, at their expense, be responsible for providing communications facilities, including terminal facilities, and services needed:—

- (a) for use within the station, other than communications systems that are part of the equipment supplied under paragraph 3 (a);
- (b) to connect the station with commercial communications circuits;
- (c) to provide links between the station and United Kingdom authorities.

The Government of the United States shall, at their expense, be responsible for procuring any further communications services needed for their own purposes.

8. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the cost of operating and maintaining the station and the special equipment shall be borne by the Government of the United Kingdom after the operational date.

9. Ownership of all movable property furnished by the Government of the United States for use in the station shall remain with the Government of the United States. The Government of the United States may remove or dispose of this property following the termination of this Agreement.

10. This Agreement shall be subject to revision by agreement between the two Governments and shall, unless previously terminated by agreement between the two Governments, remain in force while the North Atlantic Treaty remains in force.

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No. 2

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the United States Ambassador  
at London*

*Foreign Office, S.W. 1.*

*July 18, 1961.*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of today's date with reference to discussions which have taken place between representatives of the Government of the United States of America and of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the subject of co-operation in setting up and operating a Missile Defence Alarm System (MIDAS) ground read-out station at Royal Air Force Station, Kirkbride, Cumberland, which Note reads as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

I have the honour to inform you that the proposal made in your Note is acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom and to confirm that your Note, together with this reply, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments in the terms set out in the memorandum annexed to your Note, a copy of which memorandum is enclosed, such Agreement to have effect from the date of this Note.

I have, etc.

HOME.

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