



Treaty Series No. 8 (1977)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of Seychelles

concerning the Return to Seychelles of the  
Islands of Aldabra, Desroches and Farquhar

Victoria, 29 June 1976

[The Agreement entered into force on 29 June 1976]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
February 1977*

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF SEYCHELLES CONCERNING  
THE RETURN TO SEYCHELLES OF THE ISLANDS  
OF ALDABRA, DESROCHES AND FARQUHAR**

No. 1

*The President of Seychelles to the  
United Kingdom High Commissioner at Victoria*

*Victoria.*

Your Excellency,

29 June, 1976.

I have the honour to refer to the return to Seychelles from the British Indian Ocean Territory of Aldabra, Desroches and Farquhar ("the islands") and to propose on behalf of the Government of Seychelles an Agreement in the following terms:—

- (1) The Government of Seychelles shall not permit the entry into or the use of the territory, territorial waters or air space of Seychelles for any purpose by any of the armed forces of any State, or the establishment by any State of rights or facilities of a military character Provided that any State immediately before the date of this Agreement having rights of entry, use or establishment ("the current users") may continue to have rights of entry, use or establishment in accordance with any agreements or consultations between any such State and Seychelles and that the right of access to the islands shall continue for the current users in the event of emergency defence needs after agreement with Seychelles, which agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (2) The provisions of sub-paragraph (1) shall not apply to courtesy visits by aircraft and by vessels of war in accordance with normal international law and practice.
- (3) Seychelles shall continue its policy of strict nature conservancy in the islands in accordance with its current legislation and in respect of Aldabra will do so in close consultation with the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge having regard to the existing arrangements at present applying between the Administration of the British Indian Ocean Territory and the Society.

If the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland approve the above terms I have the honour to propose that this Note, together with Your Excellency's reply to that effect, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on 29 June 1976 and shall be known as the Islands Agreement.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

JAMES R. MANCHAM

No. 2

*The United Kingdom High Commissioner at Victoria to the  
President of Seychelles*

*Victoria.*

Your Excellency,

*29 June, 1976.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today's date which reads as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

In reply I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who therefore approve Your Excellency's suggestion that your Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on 29 June 1976.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

**JOHN PUGH**