



Treaty Series No. 55 (1984) ✓

# Exchange of Notes

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

concerning the United Kingdom  
Contribution towards Compensation  
Claims arising out of Civil Disturbances  
in Vanuatu in 1980

Port Vila, 13 March 1984

[The Agreement entered in force on 13 March 1984]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
July 1984*

LONDON

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75p net

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU CONCERNING THE UNITED  
KINGDOM CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS COMPENSATION CLAIMS  
ARISING OUT OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN VANUATU IN 1980**

No. 1

*The United Kingdom High Commissioner at Port Vila to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Vanuatu*

*British High Commission  
Port Vila*

*13 March 1984*

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to recent correspondence in which the Government of Vanuatu advised that its Council of Ministers accepts in full the Report prepared by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company on compensation claims arising out of civil disturbances on the islands of Santo, Tanna and Malekula between May and August 1980, and to inform you that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall make an ex-gratia contribution of VT 142,068,023 (One hundred and forty-two million sixty-eight thousand and twenty-three vatu) to assist the Government of Vanuatu to meet the cost of admissible claims.

2. The contribution referred to in the preceding paragraph, which amounts to one-third of the total of admissible claims listed in Appendices III, IV and V of the said Report, is made without prejudice to the position of the Government of the United Kingdom and does not amount to the admission of past, present or future liability on the part of the Government of the United Kingdom in any way. This contribution discharges the Government of the United Kingdom from any further contribution in respect of claims arising out of the above-mentioned civil disturbances, and shall be in full and final settlement of any such claims which might be made upon the Government of the United Kingdom.

3. Accordingly, I have the honour to propose that the Government of Vanuatu establish and administer a Compensation Fund from which such claims can be met and into which the contribution made by the Government of the United Kingdom shall be paid.

4. The contribution made by the Government of the United Kingdom shall be used by the Government of Vanuatu to meet one-third of the cost of any admissible claim listed in Appendices III, IV and V of the said Report, and not more than one-third of any one of the claims at the expense of others.

5. The Government of Vanuatu shall ensure that, on receipt of payment, each claimant signs a discharge recording that payment to him has been received and that he undertakes to pursue no further claim, directly or indirectly against the Government of the United Kingdom.

6. The Government of Vanuatu shall supply the Government of the United Kingdom with an annual statement in triplicate in respect of payments made from the Compensation Fund. Each copy of the statement shall be countersigned by the appropriate audit authority, shall show the actual payments made out of the contribution made by the Government of the United Kingdom during each financial year and shall certify that the payments were made in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Note. Statements shall be forwarded to the Government of the United Kingdom as soon as possible and in any event not later than twelve months after the end of each financial year.

7. If the proposals set out above are acceptable to the Government of Vanuatu, I have the honour to propose that the present Note together with your reply in that sense shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of your reply.

8. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

**RICHARD B. DORMAN**

No. 2

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Vanuatu to the  
United Kingdom High Commissioner at Port Vila*

*Port Vila*

*13 March 1984*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of 13 March 1984 which reads as follows :

[As in No. 1]

In reply, I confirm that the contents of your Note are acceptable to the Government of Vanuatu and that your Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments in this matter which shall enter into force today.

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

SELA MOLISA