



Treaty Series No. 2 (1953)

Exchange of Notes

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

regarding the salvage of
H.M.S. "Spartan"

Rome, 6th November, 1952

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
January 1953*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY REGARDING THE SALVAGE OF H.M.S. "SPARTAN".

Rome, 6th November, 1952

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome to the Italian
Minister for Foreign Affairs*

British Embassy,

Your Excellency,

Rome, 6th November, 1952.

I have the honour, under instructions of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are prepared to conclude an agreement with the Government of the Italian Republic for the disposal of the wreck of Her Majesty's Ship *Spartan* in the following terms:—

- (1) Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree to accept the Italian Government's offer of fifty per cent. of the amount received by the Italian State from the firm SARMAD for the sale of scrap salvaged from the wreck of Her Majesty's Ship *Spartan*.
- (2) The Italian Government shall relieve Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of any liability in respect of ownership of the wreck of H.M.S. *Spartan*.
- (3) The Italian Government shall indemnify Her Majesty's Government against any claim that might be preferred in respect of the wreck.
- (4) The Italian Government undertake to hand over to this Embassy all documents and correspondence, cyphers, cypher machines, books, safes, steel chests, steel boxes and cash which may be recovered from the wreck.
- (5) The Italian Government undertake that all necessary steps will be taken to deliver to the Naval Attaché of this Embassy the bodies of any British Naval personnel which may be found in the course of the salvage operations.
- (6) Her Majesty's Government agree to notify to the Italian Government within sixty days of the date of the present Note the names and position (as far as known) of wrecks of British warships at present lying in or adjacent to Italian territorial waters. Whenever the removal of the wrecks of British warships so notified is considered necessary, the Italian Government shall advise Her Majesty's Government before initiating the salvage operations, in case Her Majesty's Government intend to proceed with these operations themselves within the time limit and under the conditions which shall be determined by the Italian Maritime authorities in accordance with the circumstances in each particular case.

If the Italian Government are prepared to accept the foregoing provisions, I have the honour to suggest that the present Note and your Excellency's reply to that effect should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force immediately.

I avail, &c.

V. A. L. MALLET.

*The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's
Ambassador at Rome*

Il Ministro Degli Affari Esteri

Eccellenza,

Roma, 6 novembre 1952.

Ho l'onore di riferirmi alla nota di V.E. in data odierna con la quale Ella ha voluto comunicarmi quanto segue:—

[As in No. 1]

Ho l'onore di comunicarle che il Governo italiano concorda su quanto precede e che il presente scambio di Note costituisce un accordo fra i nostri due Governi.

Voglia gradire, &c.

DE GASPERI.

Translation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Your Excellency,

Rome, 6th November, 1952.

I have the honour to refer to your Excellency's Note of to-day's date in which your Excellency informed me as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

I have the honour to inform you that the Italian Government agree with the foregoing and that the present Exchange of Notes constitutes an Agreement between our two Governments.

Please accept, &c.

DE GASPERI.

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