



Treaty Series No. 77 (1959)

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 Practical Application of the Agreement of
June 25, 1956 for the Addition to the Bahamas Long
Range Proving Ground of Sites in Ascension Island

Washington, August 24/25, 1959

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1959*

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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 PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF JUNE 25, 1956 FOR THE ADDITION TO THE BAHAMAS LONG RANGE PROVING GROUND OF SITES IN ASCENSION ISLAND

No. 1

*The United States Secretary of State to Her Majesty's
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*

Department of State,

Sir:

Washington, August 24, 1959.

I refer to the Agreement signed at Washington on June 25, 1956⁽¹⁾ between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the extension of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground by the establishment of additional sites in Ascension Island for the use of the United States Government. The preamble to that Agreement expresses the desire that details of the practical application of its provisions should be arranged by friendly cooperation and I accordingly give the following undertakings of the United States Government in this matter:

Having regard to the limited resources and the geographical position of Ascension Island, the Government of the United States and its contractors shall:

- (a) import all material, equipment, supplies or goods for use in the establishment, maintenance or use of the Range area, unless otherwise agreed by the Commanding Officer of the USAF Missile Test Center and the Government of St. Helena; but rock, sand and other natural building materials on Ascension Island may be used as agreed by the Commanding Officer of the United States Air Force Missile Test Center and the Government of St. Helena;
- (b) import all consumable stores and food stuffs including fodder and grain for draft or other animals required by the United States Forces, members of the United States Forces, civilian employees of the United States, contractors of the United States and employees of contractors of the United States, unless otherwise agreed by the Commanding Officer of the USAFMTC and the Government of St. Helena.

⁽¹⁾ "Treaty Series No. 25 (1956)," Cmd. 9810.

The United States authorities shall take steps to ensure that no profession shall be exercised and no business shall be established by any member of the United States Forces, any civilian employee of the United States, any contractor of the United States, or any employee of a contractor of the United States, with the exception of institutions under the general control of the United States authorities such as Post Exchanges, Navy Exchanges, Commissary Stores, Contractors' Messes and Recreation Facilities, Service Clubs or Motion Picture Services.

All minerals and antiquities and all rights relating thereto and to treasure trove, upon, under, or connected with Ascension Island or the waters adjacent thereto are reserved to the Government of St. Helena.

The United States authorities shall afford protection to the fauna and flora of Ascension Island and the waters adjacent thereto and take steps to prohibit the introduction by members of the United States Forces, civilian employees of the United States, contractors of the United States or employees of United States contractors, of animal or vegetable organisms which are in the opinion of the Governor of St. Helena inimical to the growth and existence of living animals or plants or which are likely to become pests.

All fishing within Ascension Island waters is reserved to the Government of St. Helena with the proviso that the Government of St. Helena will grant permission to the United States Forces to carry out such fishing operations for recreation or for the purpose of maintaining the food supplies of the United States Forces as may be agreed.

The United States authorities will not obstruct the exercise of fishing privileges within Ascension Island waters insofar as may be found compatible with the requirements of the missile test program, and in the exercise of the rights under the Agreement referred to in the first paragraph of this note will use their best endeavors to avoid damage to fisheries in Ascension Island waters.

All agricultural and gardening operations are reserved to the Government of St. Helena with the proviso that the Government of St. Helena will grant permission to the United States Forces to cultivate such area as may be agreed for the purpose of food production.

As regards the use of local labor and the determination of wage rates, persons ordinarily resident in Ascension Island or St. Helena shall be employed on work performed under the Agreement whenever it appears that they are available and qualified, and the rate of wages to be paid such persons shall be determined from time to time by agreement between the Commanding Officer of USAFMTC, or his representative, and the appropriate authorities on Ascension Island or St. Helena.

As regards the use of water by the United States Forces or other United States nationals serving on or employed in connection with the Long Range Proving Ground on Ascension Island, water shall only be drawn in such quantities and on such conditions as may be agreed between the Government of St. Helena and the Commanding Officer of the USAFMTC, or his representative.

If the above undertakings are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, I propose that this note, together with your reply in that sense, should be regarded as constituting an agreement between the two

Governments, which shall enter into force on the date of your reply and remain in force for the same period as the Agreement referred to above.

Accept, &c.

For the Secretary of State:

IVAN B. WHITE.

No. 2

*Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the United States
Secretary of State.*

British Embassy,

Sir,

Washington, D.C., August 25, 1959.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of the 24th of August, 1959, which reads as follows:—

[As in No. 1.]

I have the honour to inform you that the above-mentioned undertakings are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, who agree to regard your Note and this reply as constituting an agreement between the two Governments, which shall have the same duration as the Agreement referred to above.

I avail, &c.

HOOD.

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