

UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA



Treaty Series No. 55 (1973)

# 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 Facilities for United States  
Forces on Ascension Island

London, 30 March 1973

[The Agreement entered into force on 30 March 1973]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
June 1973*

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5p net

Cmd. 5311

**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 FACILITIES FOR UNITED STATES FORCES  
ON ASCENSION ISLAND**

No. 1

*The Ambassador of the United States of America to the Secretary of State  
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*

*Embassy of the United States of America  
London*

*March 30, 1973*

No. 9

Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the Agreement signed at Washington on June 25, 1956<sup>(1)</sup> 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, as supplemented and amended by the Agreement effected by an Exchange of Notes dated August 24, 1959, and August 25, 1959,<sup>(2)</sup> regarding administrative arrangements, which take into account the limited resources and the geographical position of Ascension Island, and the Agreement effected by an Exchange of Notes on August 29, 1962,<sup>(3)</sup> regarding the use of Wideawake Airfield by United Kingdom military aircraft. I have the further honor to refer to recent discussions between the representatives of our two Governments pertaining to the advisability of enlarging the scope of the Agreement of June 25, 1956, as amended and supplemented, to permit the United States Government to conduct U.S. defense activities not connected with Air Force Eastern Test Range (AFETR) programs on Ascension Island. Based on the agreement in principle reached in those discussions, I have the honor to propose the following:

1. Provided that the Government of the United Kingdom, after consultation with the Government of St. Helena, agrees, the Government of the United States shall have the right to construct, operate and maintain facilities for non-AFETR activities of United States Forces and to conduct such activities on Ascension Island under the terms and conditions set forth in the aforesaid Agreement of June 25, 1956,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Treaty Series No. 25 (1956), Cmd. 9810.

<sup>(2)</sup> Treaty Series No. 77 (1959), Cmnd. 867.

<sup>(3)</sup> Treaty Series No. 71 (1962), Cmnd. 1869.

as supplemented and amended. Non-AFETR activities may be conducted by U.S. Forces pursuant to this paragraph both within sites which have already been provided to the Government of the United States and within other areas made available by the Government of the United Kingdom, after consultation with the Government of St. Helena.

2. A. Under Paragraph 1 above, the agreement of Her Majesty's Government shall be deemed to exist for flight operations conducted by or on behalf of United States Forces for non-AFETR purposes, unless within 72 hours following submission by the United States station commander on Ascension to the Administrator of Her Majesty's Government there of a clearance request, the former is notified by the latter of any objections to the proposed flights.
  - B. Similarly, with respect to other non-AFETR activities or use by United States Forces of areas not presently available to the Government of the United States, the agreement of Her Majesty's Government shall be deemed to exist unless within 30 days from the date the United States station commander requests permission from the Administrator of Her Majesty's Government, the latter notifies the former of any objection to the proposed activity or use.
3. In the event that the Administrator raises objections pursuant to Paragraph 2 above, the matter will be taken up by the United States Government with Her Majesty's Government through diplomatic channels with a view toward reviewing the United States request promptly.
4. The validity of the Agreements referred to in the opening paragraph of this note remains unaffected by this Agreement.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honor to suggest that the present note, together with your reply, should be regarded as constituting an Agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which shall enter into force on the date of your reply.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

W. H. ANNENBERG

No. 2

*The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the  
Ambassador of the United States of America*

*Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London, S.W.1*

*30 March, 1973*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note No. 9 of 30 March 1973, which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who therefore agree that your Note, together with this reply, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments in this matter which shall enter into force on this day's date.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration,  
Your Excellency's obedient Servant  
(for the Secretary of State)

N. B. J. HUIJSMAN