

No. 158

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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
and  
GREECE**

**Exchanges of Notes concerning the transfer of the responsibility for the administration of the Dodecanese Islands. Athens, 31 March and 7 April 1947**

*English official text communicated by the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations. The registration took place on 26 November 1947.*

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**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET  
D'IRLANDE DU NORD  
et  
GRECE**

**Echanges de notes concernant le transfert de la responsabilité de l'administration des îles du Dodécanèse. Athènes, 31 mars et 7 avril 1947**

*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le représentant permanent du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 26 novembre 1947.*

No. 158. EXCHANGES OF NOTES<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE ROYAL HELLENIC GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DODECANESE ISLANDS. ATHENS, 31 MARCH AND 7 APRIL 1947

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No. 1

*Sir C. J. Norton to M. C. Tsaldaris*

BRITISH EMBASSY

Athens, 31st March, 1947

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed to a transfer of responsibility for the administration of the Dodecanese Islands from the existing British Administration to a Greek Military Administration with effect from twelve noon today. The transfer is made on the understanding that the Royal Hellenic Government recognise that no transfer of sovereignty over the Islands can take place until the date of the entry into force of the Peace Treaty with Italy<sup>2</sup>: that until that date the Royal Government will maintain a Military Administration in the Islands in accordance with the terms of the Hague Convention of 18th October, 1907<sup>3</sup>; and that the Royal Government will be ready to proceed to the conclusion of further agreements with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom concerning matters of detail arising out of this transfer of military administration.

2. I should be grateful if your Excellency would be so good as to confirm that the Royal Hellenic Government agree to take over responsibility for the administration of the Dodecanese Islands on the above understanding.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. J. NORTON

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 31 March 1947, by the exchange of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> Great Britain, *Miscellaneous* No. 1 (1947), Cmd. 7022.

<sup>3</sup> Great Britain, *Miscellaneous* No. 6 (1908), Cmd. 4175.

## No. 2

*M. C. Tsaldaris to Sir C. J. Norton*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, 31st March, 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of today, by which your Excellency has been good enough to inform me that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed . . .

*[As in paragraph 1 of No. 1]*

2. I hasten to confirm to your Excellency that the Royal Hellenic Government agree to take over responsibility for the administration of the Dodecanese Islands on the above understanding.

3. On this occasion I would ask your Excellency to be good enough to convey to His Majesty's Government the expression of the deepest gratitude of the Royal Hellenic Government and their sincere appreciation of the way in which the British Military Administration has been carried on since the liberation of the Islands.

I avail, &amp;c.

*(Signed)* C. TSALDARIS

## No. 3

*Sir C. J. Norton to M. C. Tsaldaris*

BRITISH EMBASSY

Athens, 7th April, 1947

Monsieur le Ministre,

With reference to the Notes exchanged by your Excellency and myself on the 31st March, regarding the transfer of responsibility for the administration of the Dodecanese Islands from the British Military Administration to a Greek Military Administration, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed to the following further provisions regarding additional matters arising out of this transfer.

2. It is agreed between the Royal Hellenic Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that the question of responsibility for the cost of the administration incurred during the British occupation of the Islands shall remain a matter for subsequent negotiation along the lines eventually adopted for the settlement of similar costs in non-metropolitan territories over which, in accordance with the provisions of the Peace Treaty, Italy is to relinquish sovereignty, the financial potentiality of Greece being taken into consideration. Any debts which municipalities and parastatal companies in the Dodecanese owe to the British Military Administration in respect of advances for working capital shall similarly remain a subject for negotiation between the two Governments.

3. The British Military Administration occupation currency in circulation in the Dodecanese will be redeemed within five days from the 7th April, 1947, by the Greek Military Administration at the rate of 20,000 Drachmæ to the £B.M.A. Special provision will be made for conversion after the expiry of this time limit in cases where good cause can be shown why such currency, legally acquired, cannot be presented for conversion by the 12th April. The currency so redeemed will be transferred to a blocked account. Its disposal will be a matter for subsequent negotiation between the two Governments in association with the settlement of administration costs.

4. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agree to waive all claim to military material, captured from the Italian and German forces formerly in occupation of the Dodecanese, still remaining in the Islands on 1st April, 1947. His Majesty's Government also agree that the Royal Hellenic Government may, if they so wish, acquire surplus stores and equipment belonging to the British Military Administration on terms to be subsequently decided between the two Governments.

5. It is understood that the Royal Hellenic Government will make effective payment for stocks of food left in the Islands on 31st March, by the British Military Administration at the request of the Royal Government, and for supplies provided by the British Military Administration and imported into the Islands after that date, in such manner as His Majesty's Government may decide. The question of the U.N.R.R.A. articles will be settled by negotiation between the two Governments.

6. I should be grateful if your Excellency would be so good as to confirm that the Royal Hellenic Government accept the above provisions.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. J. NORTON

No. 4

*M. C. Tsaldaris to Sir C. J. Norton*

GREEK MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, 7th April, 1947

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of today's date, by which your Excellency has been good enough to inform me that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have agreed to the following further provisions regarding additional matters arising out of the transfer of the administration of the Dodecanese Islands from the British Military Administration to a Greek Military Administration:—

*[As in paragraphs 2-5 of No. 3]*

I have the honour to confirm to your Excellency that the Royal Hellenic Government accept the above provisions.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. TSALDARIS