

No. 1148

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

**Defence Agreement. Signed at Colombo, on 11 November
1947**

Official text: English.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
10 April 1951.*

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

**Accord relatif à la défense. Signé à Colombo, le 11 no-
vembre 1947**

Texte officiel anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
10 avril 1951.*

No. 1148. DEFENCE AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND CEYLON. SIGNED AT COLOMBO, ON 11 NOVEMBER 1947

Whereas Ceylon has reached the stage in constitutional development at which she is ready to assume the status of a fully responsible member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, in no way subordinate in any aspect of domestic or external affairs, freely associated and united by common allegiance to the Crown;

And whereas it is in the mutual interest of Ceylon and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that the necessary measures should be taken for the effectual protection and defence of the territories of both and that the necessary facilities should be afforded for this purpose;

Therefore the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ceylon have agreed as follows :—

(1) The Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ceylon will give to each other such military assistance for the security of their territories, for defence against external aggression and for the protection of essential communications as it may be in their mutual interest to provide. The Government of the United Kingdom may base such naval and air forces and maintain such land forces in Ceylon as may be required for these purposes, and as may be mutually agreed.

(2) The Government of Ceylon will grant to the Government of the United Kingdom all the necessary facilities for the objects mentioned in Article 1 as may be mutually agreed. These facilities will include the use of naval and air bases and ports and military establishments and the use of telecommunications facilities, and the right of service courts and authorities to exercise such control and jurisdiction over members of the said Forces as they exercise at present.

(3) The Government of the United Kingdom will furnish the Government of Ceylon with such military assistance as may from time to time be required towards the training and development of Ceylonese armed forces.

¹ Came into force on 4 February 1948, in accordance with the provisions of clause 5.

(4) The two Governments will establish such administrative machinery as they may agree to be desirable for the purpose of co-operation in regard to defence matters, and to co-ordinate and determine the defence requirements of both Governments.

(5) This Agreement will take effect on the day when the constitutional measures necessary for conferring on Ceylon fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations shall come into force.

DONE in duplicate, at Colombo, this 11th day of November, 1947.

Signed on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland :

Henry MOORE

Signed on behalf of the Government of Ceylon :

D. S. SENANAYAKE
