

No. 1603

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

**Special Agreement for submission to the International
Court of Justice of differences concerning sovereignty
over the Minquiers and Ecrehos islets. Signed at
London, on 29 December 1950**

Official texts: English and French.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
7 January 1952.*

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

**Compromis soumettant à la Cour internationale de Justice
les différends concernant la souveraineté sur les îlots
des Minquiers et des Écréhous. Signé à Londres, le
29 décembre 1950**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
7 janvier 1952.*

No. 1603. SPECIAL AGREEMENT¹ FOR SUBMISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MINQUIERS AND ECREHOS ISLETS. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 29 DECEMBER 1950

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the French Republic;

Considering that differences have arisen between them as a result of claims by each of them to sovereignty over the islets and rocks in the Minquiers and Ecrehos groups;

Desiring that these differences should be settled by a decision of the International Court of Justice determining their respective rights as regards sovereignty over those islets and rocks;

Desiring to define the issues to be submitted to the International Court of Justice;

Have agreed as follows :—

Article I

The Court is requested to determine whether the sovereignty over the islets and rocks (in so far as they are capable of appropriation) of the Minquiers and Ecrehos groups respectively belongs to the United Kingdom or the French Republic.

Article II

Without prejudice to any question as to the burden of proof, the Contracting Parties agree, having regard to Article 37 of the Rules of Court, that the written proceedings should consist of :—

- (1) A United Kingdom memorial to be submitted within three months of the notification of the present Agreement to the Court in pursuance of Article III below;
- (2) A French counter-memorial to be submitted within three months of delivery of the United Kingdom memorial;

¹ Came into force on 24 September 1951 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Paris, in accordance with article IV.

- (3) A United Kingdom reply followed by a Frenchre joinder to be delivered within such times as the Court may order.

Article III

Upon the entry into force of the present Agreement, it may be notified to the Court under Article 40 of the Statute of the Court by either of the Contracting Parties.

Article IV

(a) The present Agreement shall be subject to ratification.

(b) The instruments of ratification shall be exchanged as soon as possible in Paris and the present Agreement shall enter into force immediately upon the exchange of ratifications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in duplicate in London, the 29th day of December, 1950, in English and French, both texts being equally authoritative.

[L.S.]

[L.S.]

W. E. BECKETT

André GROS