

No. 1813

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

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement regarding the return of Italian submarine cables which were captured or diverted during the war and subsequently returned voluntarily to Italian ownership. London, 9 and 14 June 1949

Official text: English.

Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 30 July 1952.

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

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la restitution des câbles sous-marins italiens qui ont été saisis ou déroutés pendant la guerre et restitués volontairement par la suite. Londres, 9 et 14 juin 1949

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le 30 juillet 1952.

No. 1813. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND ITALY REGARDING THE RETURN OF ITALIAN SUBMARINE CABLES WHICH WERE CAPTURED OR DIVERTED DURING THE WAR AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED VOLUNTARILY TO ITALIAN OWNERSHIP. LONDON, 9 AND 14 JUNE 1949

I

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Italian Ambassador at London

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1

9th June, 1949

Your Excellency,

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have been giving consideration to the most appropriate means of clarifying the position regarding Italian submarine cables which were captured or diverted during the war and subsequently returned voluntarily to Italian ownership.

2. His Majesty's Government returned these cables as a gesture of goodwill towards Italy, by means of a special arrangement outside the terms of the Peace Treaty. The purpose of this aide-mémoire is to place on record the terms of this special arrangement.

3. His Majesty's Government had originally stipulated that all those cables whose terminals had been diverted from Malaga to Gibraltar should continue to run through Gibraltar. They are willing, however, to waive this stipulation provided that the Italian Government will confirm their formal acceptance of the following terms :—

- (a) any repairs or replacements of broken or truncated sections of cable shall be at Italian expense;
- (b) there shall be no question of replacement by the United Kingdom of any section of an Italian cable that is missing;

¹ Came into force on 14 June 1949, by the exchange of the said notes.

- (c) Italy will make no claims against His Majesty's Government in respect of any alleged damage to, or deterioration of, or loss of, any length of cable;
- (d) the decision as to the ultimate disposal of the cables whose terminals lie in territories of which the sovereignty is not yet decided must remain subject to the final settlement of the territories concerned.

4. His Majesty's Government will make freely available to the Italian authorities any necessary technical information regarding the present condition of the Italian cable system, and welcome the opportunity, afforded by recent negotiations on the subject, of resuming full and effective co-operation between the two countries in matters relating to the operation of submarine cables.

I have, &c.

Ernest BEVIN

II

The Italian Ambassador at London to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

ITALIAN EMBASSY

London, 14th June, 1949

Your Excellency,

I acknowledge the receipt of your Note of 9th June, 1949, regarding Italian submarine cables.

2. I can assure you on behalf of the Italian Government that they share the desire of the British Government to place on record the terms on which the Italian submarine cables were handed back to the Italian Authorities concerned and to the Italcable Company, and I am authorised by my Government to confirm the conditions upon which the return of these cables was effected :

[See note I, (a), (b), (c), and (d) of paragraph 3]

3. The Italian Government wish to observe that the British Government have already declared that they will make no claim against them in respect of any damage sustained by British-owned cables during the war.

4. The Italian Government take note that the British Government will make freely available to the Italian Authorities any necessary technical information regarding the present condition of the Italian cable system, and look forward with pleasure to the prospect of fruitful co-operation between Italy and the United Kingdom in the matter of submarine communications.

I have, &c.

T. GALLARATI SCOTTI