

No. 2136

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
(ACTING ON BEHALF OF FIJI)
and
NEW ZEALAND**

**Exchange of notes constituting a defence agreement. Wel-
lington, 28 October 1948, and Suva, 12 November 1948**

Official text: English.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 26
March 1953.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
(AGISSANT POUR LES ÎLES FIDJI)
et
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord de défense. Welling-
ton, 28 octobre 1948, et Suva, 12 novembre 1948**

Texte officiel anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le 26
mars 1953.*

No. 2136. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING A DEFENCE AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (ACTING ON BEHALF OF FIJI) AND NEW ZEALAND. WELLINGTON, 28 OCTOBER 1948, AND SUVA, 12 NOVEMBER 1948

I

The Prime Minister of New Zealand to the Governor of Fiji

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
WELLINGTON

28th October, 1948

Dear Sir Brian,

Following discussions between your Financial Secretary, the Secretary to the Treasury and myself on the question of the liquidation of Fiji's war indebtedness to New Zealand and her contribution towards future defence, I am of the opinion that the following proposals constitute a fair basis for an agreement upon this subject. In making these proposals I have been impressed by the fact that £F. 150,000 per annum is the maximum contribution which Fiji can make for both purposes, having regard to the state of development of the country and the need to press on with further development. I hope you will agree that the proposals which follow give full weight to this consideration.

1. New Zealand will accept in full and final settlement of the debt of approximately £F. 768,000 owing to her an annual payment from Fiji of £F. 50,000 for ten years.
2. All outstanding claims now existing on either side shall be cancelled.
3. Fiji shall undertake to maintain the Fiji Military Forces and the Loyal Fiji Naval Volunteer Reserve at strengths to be determined by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and shall set aside for this purpose a sum of £F. 100,000 per annum. All expenditure on Air Defence will be met by New Zealand.
4. If the actual expenditure in any one year by Fiji on the Fiji Military Forces and the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve shall be less than £F. 100,000, Fiji shall pay the

¹ Came into force on 12 November 1948, by the exchange of the said notes.

balance into a special Defence Reserve Fund which shall be kept apart from Government revenues and be available for future defence needs of the aforesaid forces.

5. If the actual expenditure by Fiji on the Fiji Military Forces and the Royal Fiji Naval Volunteer Reserve in any one year, on the other hand, exceeds £F. 100,000 the excess shall be met by a withdrawal from the Defence Reserve Fund created in the manner described in the previous sub-paragraph, and to the extent that the Reserve Fund is incapable of meeting this additional expenditure it shall be met by New Zealand.
6. Fiji's contribution in respect of current defence as aforesaid shall continue for a period of ten years or for such lesser period as the Chiefs of Staff may determine that defence considerations warrant. Should these arrangements be terminated or modified by mutual agreement at any time, any unexpended funds in the Defence Reserve would, of course, be available for Fiji to spend in other directions, and in any event the arrangement will be reviewed at the end of ten years.
7. Should the economic condition of Fiji deteriorate during the currency of this agreement to such an extent that the maintenance of her current defence commitments imposes an undue strain upon the Colony's resources, Fiji shall be at liberty to request the New Zealand Government to review the arrangements and sympathetic consideration would be given to any such approach.

If these proposals commend themselves to you and you advise me to that effect, this exchange of letters could be accepted as a record of the agreement made between the two countries.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

W. NASH
Acting Prime Minister

Sir L. Brian Freeston, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.
Governor and Commander-in-Chief
Fiji

II

The Governor of Fiji to the Prime Minister of New Zealand

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SUVA, FIJI

S. F. 8/116

12th November, 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to address you on the proposals for the conclusion of a ten-year Defence Agreement between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji

as defined in your letter of the 28th October, 1948, and to express on behalf of Fiji my unqualified acceptance of the terms of the Agreement, which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has authorised me to conclude, and my indebtedness to the Government of New Zealand for its generosity and far-sightedness.

2. I agree with the suggestion that this exchange of letters can be accepted as a record of the Agreement made between the two countries.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

L. Brian FREESTON
Governor

The Right Honourable
The Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington, New Zealand
