

No. 2372

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

General Agreement on the establishment of a British military base in Belgium. Signed at Brussels, on 12 November 1952

Official texts: English and French.

Registered by Belgium on 19 November 1953.

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

Convention générale relative à l'établissement d'une base militaire britannique en Belgique. Signée à Bruxelles, le 12 novembre 1952

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 19 novembre 1953.

No. 2372. GENERAL AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRITISH MILITARY BASE IN BELGIUM. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON 12 NOVEMBER 1952

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Belgium,

Considering that the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington on 4th April 1949,² provided for the co-operation of the Contracting States in developing their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack,

Considering that the Government of the United Kingdom have obligations resulting from the presence of their forces on the continent of Europe, and

Considering that Belgium is geographically situated on the lines of communication of the United Kingdom forces,

Have agreed as follows :—

Article 1

The Belgian Government shall permit United Kingdom forces to pass in transit through and to be stationed in Belgium whenever this appears to the two Governments to be necessary in order to ensure supplies to United Kingdom forces stationed on the continent of Europe or in order to comply with any recommendation of the North Atlantic Council or of its competent organs.

Article 2

The Belgian Government shall place at the disposal of the United Kingdom forces a military base in the vicinity of Antwerp. The location and extent of the lands put at the disposal of the United Kingdom forces for this purpose shall be the subject of separate agreements.

Article 3

The expenses of establishing the base referred to in Article 2 shall be borne by the United Kingdom and Belgian Governments in proportions to be determined by agreement between them.

¹ Came into force on 22 October 1953 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification in London, in accordance with article 8. This agreement is not applicable to the territories of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 34, p. 243, and Vol. 126, p. 350.

Article 4

The methods of establishing and operating the base shall be agreed between the military authorities of the two countries.

Article 5

(a) The provisions of the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Status of their Forces signed at London on 19th June, 1951,¹ shall, whether or not that Agreement has come into force, be applied as regards the forces to which the present Agreement relates.

(b) The fiscal provisions of the Status of Forces Agreement which are applicable under the present Agreement, shall, in so far as they are inconsistent with the fiscal laws at present in force in Belgium, take effect from 1st January, 1951.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article, the fiscal arrangements governing the construction, maintenance and operation of the Base shall be those agreed in the North Atlantic Council for application in the case of common infrastructure projects, if these arrangements are more favourable to the Government of the United Kingdom than those provided under the Status of Forces Agreement. The two Governments shall settle by agreement the manner of applying whatever fiscal arrangements are adopted in the North Atlantic Council, in so far as the manner of application is left to the discretion of the parties concerned.

Article 6

If the Belgian Government should so request, the United Kingdom Government shall permit the establishment of a Belgian military base in the United Kingdom on similar conditions to those agreed for the establishment of the United Kingdom base in the vicinity of Antwerp.

Article 7

Disputes which may arise between the two Governments regarding the interpretation or application of the present Agreement or of any other separate agreement concluded pursuant to the present Agreement shall be submitted to arbitration at the request of either Government.

The arbitrator shall be selected by agreement between the two Governments. If after two months from the date of the request of either Government

¹ United Kingdom : " Miscellaneous No. 5 (1951)," Cmd. 8279.

to submit the dispute to arbitration the two Governments have not agreed on the choice of the arbitrator, he shall be chosen by the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Article 8

The present Agreement shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Article 9

The present Agreement shall remain in force as long as the mutual assistance obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty remain in force between the two Governments, unless they agree otherwise.

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

DONE at Brussels the 12th day of November, 1952, in duplicate, in the English and French languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland :

C. F. A. WARNER

For Belgium :

Paul VAN ZEELAND