

No. 2423

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
LIBERIA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to the
designation of a permanent free port area in Liberia.
Monrovia, 24 and 26 July 1948**

Official text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 11 December 1953.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
LIBÉRIA**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la déli-
mitation d'une zone permanente destinée à l'établisse-
ment d'un port franc au Libéria. Monrovia, 24 et
26 juillet 1948**

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 11 décembre 1953.

No. 2423. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LIBERIA RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT FREE PORT AREA IN LIBERIA. MONROVIA, 24 AND 26 JULY 1948

I

The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Liberian Secretary of State

AMERICAN LEGATION

No. 111

Monrovia, Liberia, July 24, 1948

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to the agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia, signed at Monrovia on December 31, 1943,² as amended by an exchange of notes signed at Monrovia on February 23 and February 29, 1944,² relating to the construction of a port and port works in the Republic of Liberia, and to conversations which have taken place between representatives of the two Governments with respect to the establishment of boundaries to determine the area which shall be considered as the permanent free port area.

It is my understanding that the conversations referred to above have established the desire of the two Governments that the designation of the permanent free port area referred to in Article 3 of the above mentioned agreement be set forth by direct agreement between the two Governments. It is my further understanding that those conversations have resulted in agreement upon the area to be designated as such a permanent free port area, as follows :

Free Port of Monrovia. Beginning at a point coordinated North 36,143.00 East 29,417.46 said point being on a line designated as the Westerly right of way line of the principal highway joining the St. Paul River at Bushrod Island with the City of Monrovia, said right of way line being parallel to and 55 feet Westerly of the center line of said highway; thence in a general Southerly direction parallel to and 55 feet Westerly of the center line of said highway to a point coordinated North 23,728.98 East 24,830.71 said point being at the intersection of a line parallel to and 1,000.00 feet Southerly of the center line

¹ Came into force on 26 July 1948 by the exchange of the said notes.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 106, p. 199.

of the South breakwater of the Port of Monrovia and a line parallel to and 55 feet Westerly of the center line of said highway, as hereinbefore described; thence along the lines which are parallel to and lie 1,000.00 feet outside or seaward of the center lines of the breakwaters and the line connecting the seaward ends of the said Northerly and Southerly breakwaters of the Port of Monrovia to a point which is the intersection of the low water shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean and the aforesaid line lying 1,000.00 feet North and parallel to the center line of the Northerly breakwater; thence in a general Northwesterly direction along the low water shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean to the intersection of the aforesaid low water shoreline and the coordinate line North 36,143.00; thence along a line bearing true East, which is the said line coordinate North 36,143.00 to the point of beginning hereinbefore described. The above described parcel of land lying above the low waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Port waters contains 507 acres more or less.

It is my further understanding that, in addition to the permanent free port area described in the preceding paragraph, the Government of Liberia agrees, in pursuance of Article 3 of the above mentioned agreement, to designate as a part of the permanent port area, but not enjoying customs privileges as exercised in the permanent free port area, parcels of land, as follows :

1. *Port Housing Parcel.* Beginning at a point coordinated North 19,755.99 and East 19,411.90 said point being on the Northwesterly slope of Mamba Point Hill in the City of Monrovia and on the center line of a public street known as King Street, said point being also North 19°-27' East and 371.25 feet from a concrete monument situated on the center line of the said King Street and known as the established corner of the former Firestone Company lease; thence from said point of beginning North 70°-33' West, 220.00 feet to a corner, coordinated North 19,829.25 and East 19,204.46; thence North 26°-43' West, 479.06 feet to a corner, coordinated North 20,257.01 and East 18,989.19; thence North 19°-27' East, 608.00 feet to a corner, coordinated 20,830.31 and East 19,191.64; thence South 81°-35', East, 576.07 feet to a corner, coordinated North 20,746.06 and East 19,761.53; thence South 19°-27' West, 1,050.00 feet to the aforesaid point of beginning.

The above described parcel of land contains 9.73 acres more or less exclusive of streets which the Government of Liberia has dedicated to public use as rights-of-way for public travel or public utilities, all as shown and dimensioned approximately on the plat No. G-1601,¹ hereinafter referred to and made a part of this note.

¹ See insert at the end of this volume.

2. *Powerhouse Parcel.* Beginning at a point on the low water shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean which lies North $27^{\circ}-50'20''$ West of and 243.00 feet more or less from a corner possessing coordinates of North 20,930.50 and East 21,606.75 thence from said coordinated corner South $62^{\circ}-09'-40''$ West a distance of 240.00 feet to a corner coordinated North 20,818.43 and East 21,394.53; thence North $27^{\circ}-50'-20''$ West, 205.00 feet more or less to a point on the low water shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean; thence generally northeasterly along the low water shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean to the point of beginning hereinbefore described; said parcel containing 1.23 acres more or less.

Also included in this property is a right of way 50 feet wide, the location of which is subject to the approval of the Liberian Government, from the above described property to the nearest public highway over which machinery and equipment necessary for powerhouse operation can be moved.

Also included in this agreement is an easement for a water pipe line from the above described Powerhouse Parcel beginning at a point approximate coordinates North 21,072.00 East 21,529.00; thence to approximate coordinates North 21,130.00 East 21,546.00; thence to the Mesurado River at approximate coordinates North 21,825.00 East 21,150.00.

The above described parcels of land comprising the Port of Monrovia, the Port Housing Site, and the Powerhouse Site are shown respectively on plans: United States Navy drawing Y and D No. 359200;¹ U.S.E.M. drawing No. G-1601,² titled "Port Authority Housing"; and United States Navy Drawing Y and D No. 359202,² and these drawings are hereby made an exhibit to and part of this note.

The description of landed corners above described in detail are designated by a system of coordinates having directions of true North and true East and referenced to a permanent concrete monument atop Mamba Hill in the City of Monrovia, said monument possessing coordinates North 20,000.00 feet, East 20,000.00 feet, as established by consent and common custom and shown on the Republic of Liberia's official map of the City of Monrovia.

Upon receipt of a Note from Your Excellency indicating that the foregoing designation of boundaries to comprise the permanent port area is acceptable to Government of the Republic of Liberia, the Government of the United States

¹ For technical reasons this drawing is not reproduced herein. A copy thereof attached to the certified copy of the Agreement is deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the United Nations where it is available for reference.

² See insert at the end of this volume.

of America will consider that this Note and your reply thereto constitute an agreement between the two Governments on this subject, the agreement to enter into force on the date of Your Excellency's Note.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

T. A. HICKOK
American Chargé d'Affaires

His Excellency Gabriel L. Dennis
Secretary of State, R.L.
Monrovia

II

The Liberian Secretary of State to the American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

1221/D. F.

July 26, 1948

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Note No. 111 dated July 24, 1948, in which you refer to the agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia, signed at Monrovia on December 31, 1943, as amended by an exchange of Notes signed at Monrovia on February 23 and February 29, 1944, relating to the construction of a port and port works in the Republic of Liberia, as well as to conversations which have taken place between representatives of our two Governments with respect to the establishment of boundaries to determine the area which is to be considered as the permanent free port area.

I note it is the desire of your Government that, upon receipt of a Note from my Government indicating the designation of the boundaries to comprise the permanent free port area, the Government of the United States will consider that Note to constitute an agreement between the two Governments on this subject, the agreement to enter into force on the date of the Note of my Government.

In reply, I have the honor to notify you that the conversations above referred to, having resulted in complete agreement on all lines in respect of establishing the boundaries of the permanent free port area, referred to in Article 3 of the above mentioned agreement of December 31, 1943, which boundaries are more specifically set forth herein below :

[See note I]

I am authorized by my Government to inform you that the foregoing designations of boundaries to comprise the permanent free port area are acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Liberia, and that this Note may therefore be considered as constituting an agreement between our two Governments on this subject, the agreement to enter into force as of the date of this Note, it being understood, however, that the parcels of land hereinabove described with their pertinent boundaries for :—

- (1) Port Housing; and
- (2) Power House

although designated herein as a part of the permanent port area, are nevertheless excluded from the enjoyment of the customs privileges as have been granted by my Government to be exercised in the permanent free port area.

Please accept, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the renewed assurance of my consideration and esteem.

Gabriel L. DENNIS
Secretary of State

T. A. Hickok, Esquire
American Chargé d'Affaires
American Legation
Monrovia