

No. 3219

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement for the
construction and operation of a weather station on
Betio Island. Washington, 15 November 1955**

Official text: English.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
11 April 1956.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la
construction et à l'utilisation d'une station météorolo-
gique dans l'île Betio. Washington, 15 novembre 1955**

Texte officiel anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord
le 11 avril 1956.*

No. 3219. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A WEATHER STATION ON BETIO ISLAND. WASHINGTON, 15 NOVEMBER 1955

I

The United States Acting Secretary of State to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, November 15, 1955

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to negotiations which have taken place between the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the desire of the United States Government to establish a weather station at Betio Island for a period of nine months. It is noted that the Government of the United Kingdom approves the request of the United States Government to construct and operate a weather station on Betio Island for a period of nine months on the following conditions :

- (i) The United States forces and any other United States nationals present on Betio Island by reason of service or employment in connexion with the United States weather station will observe the laws and regulations of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony and United States military Courts will be granted concurrent jurisdiction over persons subject to the United States uniform code of military justice. It is understood that the Government of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony will waive its right to exercise jurisdiction in all cases other than those of comparatively trivial offences against the local laws, but that in case of disagreement, the Colonial Government will be regarded as having the primary right to exercise jurisdiction.
- (ii) No wireless station, submarine cable, land line or other installations will be established by the United States authorities otherwise than strictly for the

¹ Came into force on 15 November 1955 by the exchange of the said notes.

operational purposes of the weather station. Any wireless station, submarine cable, land line or other installation so established shall be sited and operated in such a way that it will not cause interference with established civil communications.

- (iii) The use of radio frequencies, powers and band-widths for radio services, including radar, shall be subject to the prior concurrence of the Resident Commissioner. Any radio station set up in connexion with the weather station may have to be licensed by the appropriate authority of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in accordance with the normal procedures.

- (iv) The United States Government will make available to Her Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand all the meteorological data collected by the station.

The United States Government agrees to these conditions.

The United States Government and the Government of the United Kingdom shall mutually decide upon the ultimate disposal of the weather station before it is evacuated by the United States Air Force.

The United States Government confirms that the results of observations will be made available to other interested Governments, and will specifically provide the New Zealand Government with :

- (a) upper air synoptic reports to be forwarded to Nadi for forecasting and inclusion in collective broadcasts, and

- (b) copies of upper air records for preparation of climatological data.

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, I propose that this Note and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments in this matter, the agreement to enter into force on the date of your Note in reply.

Accept, &c.

For the Acting Secretary of State :
Walworth BARBOUR

II

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the United States Acting Secretary of State

BRITISH EMBASSY

Washington, November 15, 1955

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your Note of to-day's date in the following terms :

[*See note I*]

2. Her Majesty's Government agree that your Note under reference and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the United States and Her Majesty's Government on the subject and that the agreement shall enter into force to-day.

I avail, &c.

Roger MAKINS