

No. 5811

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

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning
the establishment, for scientific purposes, of a space
vehicle tracking and communications station in
Bermuda. Washington, 15 March 1961**

Official text: English.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
16 August 1961.*

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

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la création
aux Bermudes, à des fins scientifiques, d'une station
pour le repérage des engins spatiaux et les communica-
tions avec ces engins. Washington, 15 mars 1961**

Texte officiel anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
16 août 1961.*

No. 5811. 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 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT, FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, OF A SPACE VEHICLE TRACKING AND COMMUNICATIONS STATION IN BERMUDA. WASHINGTON, 15 MARCH 1961

I

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, March 15, 1961

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to the desire of the Government of the United States of America to conduct in Bermuda, through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), certain tracking and communications activities required for Project Mercury. Project Mercury involves the installation and operation of a special world-wide tracking and communication system to provide information on the location and progress of a manned space capsule to be launched from a site in the United States and to permit the exercise of command functions for emergency or final landings of the space vehicle. It is contemplated that a number of ground stations will be established for such functions. One such station is desired in Bermuda.

The relatively small area required for such activities in Bermuda could be made available by the United States Air Force, during the period of the NASA Project, within the existing leased bases areas presently being utilized by the United States under the Leased Bases Agreement of March 27, 1941,² and subsequent related Agreements. The major function of the Bermuda

¹ Came into force on 15 March 1961 by the exchange of the said notes.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CCIV, p. 15.

station would be to determine whether the capsule has been properly placed in orbit and, if the trajectory is not acceptable, to effect an emergency landing in a predetermined area.

For this purpose, NASA would install and operate the necessary tracking, computing, telemetry, and control equipment at the following locations available to the United States Air Force: Cooper's Island, Town Hill, Paynter's Hill, and Skinner's Hill. The installations would occupy approximately eleven acres. It is understood that approximately twenty-five NASA personnel would be required for the maintenance and operation of the facilities. Construction would be performed by a United States contractor who would obtain employees locally and in the United States.

I accordingly have the honor to propose that the Government of the United States be authorized to install and operate the tracking and communications facilities required for Project Mercury in Bermuda for the purposes and in the manner set out above.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of such activities, I also propose that the provisions of the Leased Bases Agreement of March 27, 1941 and subsequent related Agreements (hereinafter together referred to as "the Agreements") in the fields of immigration, jurisdiction, taxation, and the payment of customs and other duties on personal belongings and household effects should be applied to persons entering Bermuda for the purpose of Project Mercury (other than persons already covered by the Agreements) as if such persons were persons employed by or under a contract with the Government of the United States in connection with the construction, maintenance, operation, or defense of the Leased Bases and, where such persons are nationals of the United States, as if their residence in Bermuda for the purpose of Project Mercury were residence in the territory by reason only of their employment therein in connection with the construction, maintenance, operation or defense of the said Bases.

I further propose that the provisions of the Agreements in the field of payment of customs and other duties on material, equipment, supplies, or goods, should be applied to material, equipment, supplies, or goods the property of the Government of the United States and introduced into Bermuda in connection with Project Mercury, as if such material, equipment, supplies, or goods were for use in the construction, maintenance, operation, or defense of the said Bases.

The Government of the United States would make available to the Government of the United Kingdom all data obtained by the station and other relevant technical information obtained in the operation thereof, as well as all such information obtained in the general operation of Project Mercury as the Government of the United Kingdom may require.

If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honor to propose

that this note and Your Excellency's reply to that effect shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of Your Excellency's note in reply.

Accept, etc.

For the Secretary of State :

Ivan B. WHITE

II

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

BRITISH EMBASSY

Washington, D. C., March 15, 1961

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of to-day's date about the establishment in Bermuda of a Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Station in connexion with the manned satellite programme of the Government of the United States of America, known as "Project Mercury", which Note reads as follows :

[*See note I*]

2. I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom, who therefore agree that your Note, together with the present reply, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on to-day's date.

I avail, etc.

Harold CACCIA