

No. 7779

**UNITED NATIONS
and
BELGIUM**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement definitively settling the financial questions outstanding as regards the former Belgian military bases in the Congo. New York, 20 February 1965

Official text: French.

Registered ex officio on 17 May 1965.

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
et
BELGIQUE**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord réglant définitivement les questions financières restées en suspens en ce qui concerne les anciennes bases militaires belges au Congo. New York, 20 février 1965

Texte officiel français.

Enregistré d'office le 17 mai 1965.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 7779. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND BELGIUM DEFINITELY SETTling THE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS OUTSTANDING AS REGARDS THE FORMER BELGIAN MILITARY BASES IN THE CONGO. NEW YORK, 20 FÉBRUARY 1965

I

PERMANENT MISSION OF BELGIUM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

S. 588

New York, 20 February 1965

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the recent conversations between representatives of your Organization and of the Belgian Government concerning the accounts arising out of the administration by the United Nations of the former Belgian military bases in the Congo.

In the course of those conversations and of the many exchanges of letters which preceded them, it appeared that the United Nations and the Belgian Government held claims based in each case on the contents of the agreement between the United Nations and the Belgian Government concluded in August/September 1960.

In the case of the Belgian Government, the sums claimed from the United Nations were chiefly in respect of services, supplies, plant and equipment furnished to the United Nations, together with compensation for the duly verified depreciation of certain installations at the bases in the Congo.

In the case of the United Nations, the sums claimed related to the statements of costs for the administration of those bases on behalf of Belgium, from 1 September 1960 to 15 February 1964.

During the recent negotiations and after protracted legal and financial discussions, it was proposed that each of the parties should agree that its financial claims should be cancelled by being set against those of the other party.

On behalf of the Belgian Government, I have the honour to inform you of my agreement to that proposal. Therefore, if you also consider that you can agree thereto, I should be grateful if you would inform me accordingly.

¹ Came into force on 20 February 1965 by the exchange of the said letters.

This letter and your reply would constitute an agreement and a final settlement of the financial matters outstanding between your Organization and my Government with regard to the former military bases in the Congo, our mutual claims being cancelled.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

P.-H. SPAAK
Vice-President of the Council
Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

II

20 February 1965

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 20 February 1965 concerning the accounts arising out of the administration by the United Nations of the former Belgian military bases in the Congo.

As you have recalled, the conversations which took place in New York at the expert level from the end of October to mid-December 1964, resulted in the proposal that the claims of the Belgian Government, on the one hand, and of the United Nations on the other hand, should be cancelled by being set against each other.

The thorough study which preceded that proposal prompts me to approve the terms of your letter. I accordingly consider that this exchange of letters constitutes a final settlement of the financial matters outstanding between your Government and the United Nations with regard to the former Belgian military bases in the Congo, our mutual claims being cancelled.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U THANT
Secretary-General

His Excellency Mr. Paul-Henri Spaak
Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of Belgium
Minister for Foreign Affairs