

No. 9668

AUSTRALIA
and
FRANCE

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating
to the conduct of high-altitude balloon launchings
in Australia (with attached memorandum). Paris,
8 November 1967

Authentic texts: English and French.

Registered by Australia on 26 June 1969.

AUSTRALIE
et
FRANCE

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à
l'exécution de lancements de ballons à haute altitude
en Australie (avec note en annexe). Paris, 8 novembre
1967

Textes authentiques: anglais et français.

Enregistré par l'Australie le 26 juin 1969.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF HIGH-ALTITUDE BALLOON LAUNCHINGS IN AUSTRALIA

ÉCHANGE DE NOTES CONSTITUANT UN ACCORD¹ ENTRE LE GOUVERNEMENT DU COMMONWEALTH D'AUSTRALIE ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE RELATIF À L'EXÉCUTION DE LANCEMENTS DE BALLONS À HAUTE ALTITUDE EN AUSTRALIE

I

LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Paris, le 8 novembre 1967

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Conformément au programme spatial français EOLE d'études scientifiques et de météorologie, des lancements de ballons ont été effectués par le Service d'Aéronomie du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), sous l'égide du Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), dans le Pacifique, à partir de Nouméa, en juillet et août 1966. A l'occasion de ces expériences qui conduisaient au survol du territoire australien, des renseignements précis ont été communiqués aux autorités australiennes.

Le Service d'Aéronomie du CNRS, agissant sous la responsabilité du CNES, souhaite maintenant poursuivre l'exécution de ce programme en procédant à des lancements de ballons à partir de la station météorologique de Mildura, située en Australie.

Par une note remise au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, le 24 février 1967, qui lui faisait part de leur accord de principe sur ces expériences, les autorités australiennes souhaitaient que leur fût adressée une note relative aux aspects techniques de l'opération et à l'assistance requise à cet égard, notamment de la part du Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology. En outre, elles jugeaient nécessaire qu'un échange de lettres entre les deux Gouvernements définisse dans quelle mesure la responsabilité de chacun était engagée à l'occasion de ces expériences.

En vous priant de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint la note qui vous fournira les indications de caractère technique que vous souhaitiez obtenir et la nature du concours sollicité par le Service d'Aéronomie du CNRS,

¹ Came into force on 8 November 1967, the date of the note in reply, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

¹ Entré en vigueur le 8 novembre 1967, date de la note de réponse, conformément aux dispositions desdites notes.

- 3) Le Bureau de Météorologie fournira des données récentes sur les conditions météorologiques locales (observation du temps) et régionales.
- 4) Le Bureau de Météorologie pourra participer, dans la mesure où son propre programme le lui permettra, à la surveillance des ballons lâchés.

Pour sa part, le Service d'Aéronomie du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique transmettra au Bureau de Météorologie tous les renseignements recueillis en cours d'expérience, ainsi que le résultat des études fondées sur ces données.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Paris, 8th November 1967

Sir,

[See note II]

Please accept, etc.

Maurice COUVE DE MURVILLE

[SEAL]

His Excellency Sir Ronald Walker
Ambassador of Australia
Australian Embassy
Paris

II

Paris, 8 November 1967

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th November, 1967, which reads in English as follows :

In the course of the EOLE French Space Programme for scientific and meteorological studies, balloon launchings were made by the Service d'Aéronomie du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), under the aegis of the Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES), in the Pacific, from Nouméa, in July and August 1966. The Australian authorities were notified at the time of those experiments which resulted in the overflight of Australian territory.

The Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS, acting under the direction of the CNES, now desires to continue the programme by proceeding

with balloon launchings from the meteorological station at Mildura, Australia.

In a Note presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 24th February 1967, informing it of their agreement in principle to the carrying out of these experiments, the Australian authorities requested that a memorandum be addressed to them regarding the technical aspects of the operation and the assistance required in this respect, in particular from the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology. They also considered it necessary that Notes be exchanged between the two Governments to define the measure of responsibility of each in relation to the experiments.

The attached memorandum supplies the technical data which the Australian authorities wished to obtain and sets out the nature of the assistance sought by the Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS acting under the direction of the CNES. I have the honour to propose that the following conditions be applied to the abovementioned balloon launchings :

1) The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia will authorise the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology to co-operate with the Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS for the proper execution of the programme of balloon launchings which will take place in the months of November and December 1967.

2) The Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS will supply the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, through the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, with all the information which that Government may deem necessary to ascertain the nature of the activities being undertaken at the Mildura meteorological station and to ensure their conformity with Australian laws and regulations. It will also inform the Australian Government, through the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, of all data obtained on the position of the balloons.

3) The Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS shall bear the cost of conducting the programme and in particular, the costs of operating personnel, and the installation, functioning and maintenance of the equipment.

4) The programme shall be carried out in accordance with the normal safety requirements of the appropriate Australian authorities.

5) The personal and household effects of the French personnel brought to Australia to take part in the conduct of the programme shall be permitted free entry into Australia in accordance with the Australian customs laws in force on the date of entry of such effects.

6) The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia will take such measures as may be necessary to facilitate the entry into and removal from the territory of Australia of all materials and equipment supplied by the French Government for the conduct of the programme. No duties, taxes or other

charges will be imposed on such materials and equipment by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

7) All goods, whether for official or personal use, brought into Australia in connection with the programme shall be subject to Australian quarantine laws.

8) The French Government will indemnify the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, its servants and agents, against all claims which may be made in respect of injury or damage occasioned by the conduct of the programme.

I have the honour to propose that, in the event of your confirming that the foregoing conditions are acceptable to the Australian Government, the present letter and your reply shall constitute an agreement, to enter into force on the date of your reply, concerning the conduct by the mission of the Service d'Aéronomie of the CNRS of the experiments which it is proposed to carry out in Australia.

I have the honour to confirm that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Australian Government who therefore agree that your letter of 8th November 1967 together with the present reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force as of this date.

Please accept, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ronald WALKER
Ambassador

Son Excellence Monsieur Maurice Couve de Murville¹
Ministre des Affaires Étrangères
Paris

MEMORANDUM

The programme arranged for the months of November and December 1967 will comprise the launching of 30 aerostats. Its objective, which is strictly scientific, is to observe the trajectory followed by these balloons, which would drift in the atmosphere at a height of about 9000 meters (300mb) for a period which could last several weeks.

These aerostats are sealed balloons, carrying a radio-electric beacon and a buoy. In flight, these balloons have a spherical shape of 2.5 meters diameter. They are made of a film of plastic material (terphane or mylar) 50 microns thick. The total weight of each one is less than 2 kilograms.

¹ His Excellency Maurice Couve de Murville, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Paris.

The electronic beacon emits specially coded Morse signals which permit the measurement of different meteorological parameters (temperature, pressure) and the determination of the location of the balloon once a day. The latter can be established with a precision of within 100 kilometers. The beacon is powered by a solar generator and its total weight in less than 300 grams.

The buoy is a box made of expanded polystyrene of very low density, that is, 15 times that of air (20 gr. per litre).

The place from which it would be desirable that the launchings be made is the meteorological station at Mildura. Stratospheric balloons of much greater volume have already been launched there.

The bodies concerned are, on the one hand, for France, the Centre National d'Études Spatiales, which is responsible in this case for the activities of the Service d'Aéronomie of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and on the other hand, for Australia, the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology.

It is desired that the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia agree to the following proposals :

- 1) The Bureau of Meteorology will be the host of the Service d'Aéronomie for the duration of the programme, that is, approximately two months. In particular, the Bureau will receive the French equipment and will provide for its safe keeping before the arrival of the mission.
- 2) Balloon launchings will be permitted at all times, provided that safety criteria are adhered to in accordance with Australian requirements and their implementation is to the satisfaction of the appropriate Australian authorities.
- 3) The Bureau of Meteorology will provide up to date data on the local (weather observations) and regional meteorological situation.
- 4) The Bureau of Meteorology may participate, to the extent that its own programme permits, in the monitoring of the balloons launched.

For its part, the Service d'Aéronomie of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique will supply the Bureau of Meteorology with all the data obtained from the experiments and the results of studies based on these measurements.

[TRADUCTION — TRANSLATION]

Paris, le 8 novembre 1967
Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 8 novembre 1967, dont le texte est, en anglais, le suivant :

[*Voir note I*]

Je vous confirme que les propositions ci-dessus rencontrent l'agrément du Gouvernement australien qui accepte en conséquence que votre lettre du 8 novembre 1967 ainsi que la présente réponse constituent un accord