

No. 11801

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
BAHRAIN**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement to maintain deployment
in Bahrain of the United States Middle East Force, including
its flagship and other vessels and aircraft. Manama, 23
December 1971**

Authentic text : English.

Registered by the United States of America on 5 May 1972.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
BAHREÏN**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif au maintien du
stationnement à Bahreïn de la Force des États-Unis au
Moyen-Orient, y compris son vaisseau amiral et ses autres
navires et aéronefs. Manama, 23 décembre 1971**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 5 mai 1972.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
BAHRAIN TO MAINTAIN DEPLOYMENT IN BAHRAIN
OF THE UNITED STATES MIDDLE EAST FORCE,
INCLUDING ITS FLAGSHIP AND OTHER VESSELS AND
AIRCRAFT

I

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

December 23, 1971

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to the present deployment in Bahrain of the United States Middle East Force, including its flagship and other vessels and aircraft. The United States Government proposes to maintain this presence and its related support facilities subject to the following arrangements :

1. Vessels and aircraft assigned to or supporting the United States Force may freely enter and depart the territorial waters, ports and airfields of Bahrain;
2. Members of the United States Force will be allowed freedom of movement within Bahrain and freedom of entry to and egress from Bahrain;
3. If there is any substantial change contemplated by the United States Government in the deployment of vessels or aircraft or numbers of personnel to be supported on Bahrain in connection with the United States Middle East Force, the United States Government will consult with the Government of Bahrain before effecting that change;
4. Passport and visa requirements shall not be applicable to military members of the United States Force except as shall be agreed upon between the two governments. All members of the United States Force, however, shall be furnished with appropriate identification which shall be produced, upon demand, to the appropriate authorities of the Government of Bahrain. Members of the United States Force will be exempt from immigration and emigration inspection on entering or leaving Bahrain, and from registration and control as aliens, but will not by reasons of their entry into Bahrain be regarded as acquiring any rights to permanent residence in Bahrain;

¹ Came into force on 23 December 1971 by the exchange of the said notes.

5. Members of the United States Force will respect the laws, customs and traditions of Bahrain, and abstain from activity inconsistent with the spirit of these arrangements. The authorities of the United States will take necessary measures to that end;

6. Members of the United States Force shall not be subject to taxation on their salary and emoluments received from United States sources or on any other tangible movable property which is present in Bahrain due to their temporary presence there;

7. The authorities of Bahrain will accept as valid, and without a driving test or fee, driving licenses or military driving permits issued by the authorities of the United States to members of the United States Force;

8. The authorities of the United States will pay just and reasonable compensation in settlement of civil claims (other than contractual claims) arising out of acts or omission of members of the United States Force done in the performance of official duty or out of any other act, omission or occurrence for which the Force is legally responsible. All such claims will be expeditiously processed and settled by the authorities of the United States in accordance with United States law;

9. The United States Force and its members may import into Bahrain, without license or other restriction or registration and free of customs, duties and taxes, equipment, supplies, household effects, motor vehicles and other items required by the Force or for the personal use of the members of the Force. Any items imported under this paragraph may be exported freely without customs, duties, and taxes. However, any property of any kind imported entry free under this paragraph which is sold in Bahrain to persons other than to those entitled to duty free import privileges shall be subject to customs and other duties on its value at the time of sale.

10. Personal purchases by members of the United States Force from Bahraini sources shall not be exempt from Bahraini customs, duties and taxes except for certain articles to be agreed upon between the two governments;

11. The Government of Bahrain shall exercise civil jurisdiction over members of the United States Force, except for those matters arising from the performance of their official duties. The Government of the United States shall exercise criminal jurisdiction over members of the United States Force. In particular cases, however, the authorities of the two governments may agree otherwise;

12. The term "members of the United States Force" means members of the Armed Forces of the United States and persons serving with, or employed by said Armed Forces, including dependents, but excluding indigenous Bahraini nationals and other persons ordinarily resident in Bahrain territory, provided that such nationals or other persons are not dependents of members of the United States Force;

13. The occupancy and use of the support facilities required by the United

States Force will be governed by administrative arrangements between the United States authorities and the authorities of Bahrain or, as appropriate, private property owners;

14. Should either government determine at some future time that it is no longer desirable to continue the presence on Bahrain of the United States Middle East Force, the United States shall have one year thereafter to terminate its presence.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of Bahrain, I have the honor to propose that this note and your note in reply confirming acceptance will constitute an agreement between our respective governments regarding this matter.

Accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

[Signed]

JOHN N. GATCH, Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency Shaikh Mohammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of the State of Bahrain

II

STATE OF BAHRAIN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

December 23, 1971

Sir :

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated December 23, 1971, reading as follows :

[See note I]

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Government of Bahrain agrees to all that was said in this note.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

[Signed]

MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL-KHALIFA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Government of Bahrain

John N. Gatch, Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
Embassy of the United States of America
Manama, Bahrain