

No. 13091

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
BAHAMAS**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to
continuance of United States military rights and
maritime practices in the Bahamas. Nassau, 10 and 20
July 1973**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 12 February 1974.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
BAHAMAS**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif au maintien
des droits militaires des États-Unis et de leurs pratiques
maritimes aux Bahamas. Nassau, 10 et 20 juillet 1973**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 12 février 1974.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE BAHAMAS RELATING TO CONTINUANCE OF UNITED STATES MILITARY RIGHTS AND MARITIME PRACTICES IN THE BAHAMAS

I

*The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Bahamian
Minister of External Affairs*

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NASSAU

July 10, 1973

No. 32

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to recent discussions between representatives of our two Governments concerning the basis for the continuance of the United States military rights in The Bahamas as well as existing maritime practices.

I have the honor to propose that our two Governments confirm the continuing application, *mutatis mutandis*, and during the continuance of talks between our respective Governments with a view to reaching a definitive understanding, of those bilateral agreements between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America which concern United States and United Kingdom rights relating to existing military facilities and military operating rights in The Bahamas, and which were in force on the date of Independence of The Bahamas. This confirmation would be understood to include rights for United Kingdom Forces to continue to use United States military facilities in The Bahamas on the terms and conditions which governed such use prior to Independence.

In addition, United States public vessels on non-commercial service shall have freedom of access to and movement in, the waters which are subject to Bahamian jurisdiction. When such vessels enter Bahamian ports, appropriate notification shall, under normal conditions, be made to the proper Bahamian authorities, except as otherwise agreed.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I have the honor further to propose that this note, together with Your Excellency's reply to that effect, shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments which shall take effect from the commencement of Bahamian Independence and continue in force until such time as a definitive agreement is reached between our two Governments concerning said rights. It would be

¹ Came into force on 20 July 1973, the date of the note in reply, with retroactive effect from 10 July 1973, the commencement of Bahamian Independence, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

understood that negotiations toward the conclusion of that definitive agreement shall continue expeditiously as it is the intention of the Parties concerned to reach agreement by December 31, 1973; and that the Parties would meet at any time at the request of either of them, and in consultation with the Government of the United Kingdom, to review the progress of negotiations and the desirability of continued United States military facilities and operations in The Bahamas.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MONCRIEFF J. SPEAR
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency Paul L. Adderley
Minister of External Affairs
Nassau

II

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

July 20, 1973

EXT/C.80/10

Sir:

I have the honour to refer to your note No. 32 of the 10th of July, 1973, which reads as follows:

[See note I]

I have the honour to confirm that the above equally represents the understanding of the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

With assurances of my highest consideration,

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed]
PAUL L. ADDERLEY
Minister of External Affairs

Mr. Moncrieff J. Spear
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
Embassy of the United States of America
Nassau, Bahamas