

No. 14245

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
JAMAICA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning the provision of four helicopters and related assistance by the United States of America to help Jamaica in curbing traffic in illegal narcotics. Kingston, 9 and 21 August and 23 September 1974**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 27 August 1975.*

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**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
JAMAÏQUE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la fourniture par les États-Unis d'Amérique de quatre hélicoptères et de services connexes en vue d'aider la Jamaïque dans la lutte contre le trafic illicite des stupéfiants. Kingston, 9 et 21 août et 23 septembre 1974**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 27 août 1975.*

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAMAICA CONCERNING  
THE PROVISION OF FOUR HELICOPTERS AND RELATED ASSIST-  
ANCE BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HELP JAMAICA  
IN CURBING TRAFFIC IN ILLEGAL NARCOTICS

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I

JAMAICA HOUSE  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

August 9, 1974

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I refer to discussions between my Minister of National Security and Justice, the Honourable Eli Matalon, and representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration and your Embassy, on the technical assistance requirements and demands of the Operation Buccaneer.

I am writing to confirm my understanding of the agreement between the United States and the Jamaica Government, relating to Buccaneer whose operational responsibilities will be under your general authority and direction:

- (i) Four troop lift helicopters to be provided by the United States Government will be under the operational control of the Chief of Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force;
- (ii) While physically present in Jamaica, these helicopters will be captained by pilots of the DEA;
- (iii) No herbicide spray equipment will be installed nor should the helicopters normally be used in troop lifts connected with the eradication programme;
- (iv) The helicopters could be used however, to satisfy the normal legitimate requirements of the Jamaica Defence Force;
- (v) The helicopters may also be used in operations designed to interdict smugglers engaged in narcotic and other smuggling activities;
- (vi) The Government of Jamaica will hold the United States Government harmless in respect of claims and liabilities which may arise from the use of the helicopters in these activities;
- (vii) The Government of Jamaica will provide the necessary fuel at no cost to the United States Government during the operation of the helicopters in Jamaica.

I would be grateful for your confirmation.

[Signed]  
MICHAEL MANLEY  
Prime Minister

Mr. Sumner Gerard  
United States Ambassador  
United States Embassy  
Kingston

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 23 September 1974 by the exchange of the said notes.

## II

*The American Ambassador to the Jamaican Prime Minister*

KINGSTON, JAMAICA

August 21, 1974

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I refer to your letter of August 9, 1974, concerning the technical assistance requirements and demands of Operation Buccaneer. The Government of the United States has, as you know, been pleased to respond to the request of the Government of Jamaica for technical assistance for a program designed to interdict the narcotics traffic between our two countries. We have also supplied some commodities and equipment for use in the program on either a loan or a grant basis.

Your letter might be taken to imply that Operation Buccaneer will be under my authority and direction, though this may not have been intended. I am, of course, responsible for the proper use of American equipment and personnel dedicated to Operation Buccaneer. However, it is the understanding of the United States Government that overall responsibility for and direction of Operation Buccaneer lies with the Government of Jamaica, and that the role of United States equipment and personnel is supportive and advisory. It is my understanding that the operational responsibilities of the program will be under the general authority and direction of your Minister of Security and Justice, Mr. Eli Matalon.

This letter confirms the agreement and understanding between our two governments contained in sub-paragraphs (i) through (vii) of your letter. In addition, I think it may be useful to re-state that these helicopters cannot be used directly for eradication purposes involving the use of herbicides.

As noted in our Aide-Memoire of June 10, the Government of the United States views its participation in this Jamaican effort as a one-time, short-term effort. In view of this, we believe that a termination date of December 15, 1974, for direct American participation in Operation Buccaneer should be set, at which time the four helicopters, other commodities in Jamaica on a temporary basis, and the DEA personnel in Jamaica for temporary duty with Operation Buccaneer should be returned to the United States.

The United States Government, of course, hopes to continue to cooperate with the Government of Jamaica beyond this date in our mutual effort against illicit narcotics production and traffic. For this purpose, the DEA office attached to this Embassy will be maintained to work in cooperation with the appropriate authorities of the Government of Jamaica.

I fully share your earnest desire for an early and successful achievement of our goals. Your confirmation of this letter would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed]  
SUMNER GERARD  
Ambassador

His Excellency Michael Manley  
Prime Minister of Jamaica  
Kingston

## III

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

23rd September, 1974

No. S600

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

With reference to your letter of August 21, 1974 to the Prime Minister concerning Operation Buccaneer, I write to correct the impression that might have been conveyed in the Prime Minister's letter to you of August 9, 1974, and to say that the Government of Jamaica takes full responsibility for all operational aspects of Buccaneer. I am therefore to confirm your understanding that as Minister, the programmes come under my direction although the operational aspects will be the direct responsibility of the Chief of Staff and the Commissioner of Police.

The other points dealt with in your letter under reference have been duly noted.

On behalf of the Government, I am pleased to convey our appreciation for the assistance being given.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

ELI J. MATALON

Minister of National Security and Justice

Mr. Sumner Gerard  
United States Ambassador  
United States Embassy  
Kingston

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