

No. 15526

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
SEYCHELLES**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning the
return to Seychelles of the islands of Aldabra, Des-
roches and Farquhar. Victoria, 29 June 1976**

Authentic text: English.

*Registered by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
16 March 1977.*

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
SEYCHELLES**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif au retour aux
Seychelles des îles Aldabra, Desroches et Farquhar.
Victoria, 29 juin 1976**

Texte authentique : anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
16 mars 1977.*

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SEYCHELLES CONCERNING THE RETURN TO SEYCHELLES OF THE ISLANDS OF ALDABRA, DESROCHES AND FARQUHAR

I

The President of Seychelles to the United Kingdom High Commissioner at Victoria

Victoria, 29 June, 1976

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the return to Seychelles from the British Indian Ocean Territory of Aldabra, Desroches and Farquhar ("the islands") and to propose on behalf of the Government of Seychelles an Agreement in the following terms:

(1) The Government of Seychelles shall not permit the entry into or the use of the territory, territorial waters or air space of Seychelles for any purpose by any of the armed forces of any State, or the establishment by any State of rights or facilities of a military character, provided that any State immediately before the date of this Agreement having rights of entry, use or establishment ("the current users") may continue to have rights of entry, use or establishment in accordance with any agreements or consultations between any such State and Seychelles and that the right of access to the islands shall continue for the current users in the event of emergency defence needs after agreement with Seychelles, which agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld.

(2) The provisions of sub-paragraph (1) shall not apply to courtesy visits by aircraft and by vessels of war in accordance with normal international law and practice.

(3) Seychelles shall continue its policy of strict nature conservancy in the islands in accordance with its current legislation and in respect of Aldabra will do so in close consultation with the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge having regard to the existing arrangements at present applying between the Administration of the British Indian Ocean Territory and the Society.

If the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland approve the above terms I have the honour to propose that this Note, together with Your Excellency's reply to that effect, shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on 29 June 1976 and shall be known as the Islands Agreement.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

JAMES R. MANCHAM

¹ Came into force on 29 June 1976 by the exchange of the said notes.

II

The United Kingdom High Commissioner at Victoria to the President of Seychelles

Victoria, 29 June, 1976

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today's date which reads as follows:

[See note I]

In reply I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland who therefore approve Your Excellency's suggestion that your Note and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on 29 June 1976.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

JOHN PUGH
