

No. 21107

---

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
LEBANON**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to  
investment guaranties. Beirut, 17 September 1980 and  
10 February 1981**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 22 June 1982.*

---

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

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la garantie  
des investissements. Beyrouth, 17 septembre 1980 et  
10 février 1981**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 22 juin 1982.*

## EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LEBANON RELATING TO INVESTMENT GUARANTIES

### I

September 17, 1980

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to conversations which have recently taken place between representatives of our two governments relating to investments in Lebanon which promote the development of the economic resources and productive capacities of Lebanon and to investment insurance (including reinsurance) and investment guaranties which are backed in whole or in part by the credit or public monies of the United States of America and are administered either directly by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation ("OPIC"), an independent government corporation organized under the laws of the United States of America, or pursuant to arrangements between OPIC and commercial insurance, reinsurance and other companies. I also have the honor to confirm the following understandings reached as a result of those conversations:

*Article 1.* As used herein, the term "coverage" shall refer to any investment insurance or guaranty which is issued in accordance with this Agreement by OPIC, by any successor agency of the United States of America or by any other entity or group of entities, pursuant to arrangements with OPIC or any successor agency, all of whom are hereinafter deemed included in the term "Issuer" to the extent of their interest as insurer or reinsurer in any coverage, whether as a party or successor to a contract providing coverage or as an agent for the administration of coverage.

*Article 2.* The procedures set forth in this Agreement shall apply only with respect to coverage relating to projects or activities approved by the Government of Lebanon or to projects or activities with respect to which the party under coverage has entered into a contract with the Government of Lebanon, or any agency or political subdivision thereof, for the provision of goods or services.

*Article 3. (a)* If the Issuer makes payment to any investor under coverage, the Government of Lebanon shall, subject to the provisions of article 4 hereof, recognize the transfer to the Issuer of any currency, credits, assets, or investment on account of which payment under such coverage is made as well as the succession of the Issuer to any right, title, claim, privilege, or cause of action existing, or which may arise, in connection therewith.

*(b)* The Issuer shall assert no greater rights than those of the transferring investor with respect to any interests transferred or succeeded to under this paragraph. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the right of the Government of the United States of America to assert a claim under international law in its sovereign capacity, as distinct from any rights it may have as Issuer.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 30 April 1981, the date of the note by which the Government of Lebanon informed the Government of the United States that it had been approved pursuant to its constitutional procedures, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

(c) The issuance of coverage outside of Lebanon with respect to investment in a project in Lebanon shall not subject the Issuer to regulation under the laws of Lebanon applicable to insurance or financial organizations.

*Article 4.* To the extent that the laws of Lebanon partially or wholly invalidate or prohibit the acquisition from a covered investor of any interest in any property within the territory of Lebanon by the Issuer, the Government of Lebanon shall permit such investor and the Issuer to make appropriate arrangements pursuant to which such interests are transferred to an entity permitted to own such interests under the laws of Lebanon.

*Article 5.* Amounts in the lawful currency of Lebanon, including credits thereof, acquired by the Issuer by virtue of such coverage shall be accorded treatment by the Government of Lebanon no less favorable as to use and conversion than the treatment to which such funds would be entitled in the hands of the covered investor. Such amounts and credits may be transferred by the Issuer to any person or entity and upon such transfer shall be freely available for use by such person or entity in the territory of Lebanon.

*Article 6.* (a) Any dispute between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Lebanon regarding the interpretation of this Agreement or which, in the opinion of one of the Governments, involves a question of public international law arising out of any project or investment for which coverage has been issued shall be resolved, insofar as possible, through negotiations between the two Governments. If at the end of three months following the request for negotiations the two Governments have not resolved the dispute by agreement, the dispute, including the question of whether such dispute presents a question of public international law, shall be submitted, at the initiative of either government, to an arbitral tribunal for resolution in accordance with paragraph 6(b).

(b) The arbitral tribunal for resolution of disputes pursuant to paragraph 6(a) shall be established and function as follows:

- (i) Each Government shall appoint one arbitrator; these two arbitrators shall designate a President by common agreement who shall be a citizen of a third state and be appointed by the two Governments. The arbitrators shall be appointed within two months, and the President within three months of the date of receipt of either Government's request for arbitration. If the appointments are not made within the foregoing time limits, either Government may, in the absence of any other agreement, request the President of the International Court of Justice to make the necessary appointment or appointments, and both Governments agree to accept such appointment or appointments.
- (ii) The arbitral tribunal shall base its decision on the applicable principles and rules of public international law. The arbitral tribunal shall decide by majority vote. Its decision shall be final and binding.
- (iii) Each of the Governments shall pay the expense of its arbitrator and of its representation in the proceedings before the arbitral tribunal, the expenses of the President and other costs shall be paid in equal parts by the two Governments. The arbitral tribunal may adopt regulations concerning the costs, consistent with the foregoing.
- (iv) In all other matters, the arbitral tribunal shall regulate its own procedures.

*Article 7.* This Agreement shall continue in force until six months from the date of receipt of a note by which one Government informs the other of an intent no longer to be a party to the Agreement. In such event, the provisions of the Agreement with respect to coverage issued while the Agreement was in force shall remain in force for the duration of such coverage, but in no case longer than twenty years after the denunciation of the Agreement.

Upon receipt of a note from Your Excellency indicating that the foregoing provisions are acceptable to the Government of Lebanon, the Government of the United States of America will consider that this note and your reply thereto con-

stitute an Agreement between our two Governments on this subject, to enter into force on the date of the note by which the Government of Lebanon communicates to the Government of the United States of America that this exchange of notes has been approved pursuant to its constitutional procedures.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Cordially yours,

[Signed]

JOHN GUNTHER DEAN  
American Ambassador

H.E. Mohamed Atallah  
President  
Council for Development and Reconstruction  
Baabda

## II

COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION  
BEIRUT, LEBANON  
The President

February 10, 1981

No. 48/1

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated September 17, 1980, which reads:

[See note I]

I have the honor to confirm that the above correctly sets out the understanding reached between us.

With best regards,

[Signed]

MOHAMMAD ATALLAH  
President

H.E. John Gunther Dean  
Ambassador of the United States  
of America  
Beirut, Lebanon