

No. 21181

---

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
and  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning co-operation in the suppression of the unlawful importation of narcotic drugs into the United States. London, 13 November 1981**

*Authentic text: English.*

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 27 July 1982.*

---

**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD  
et  
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la coopération pour la répression de l'importation illicite de stupéfiants aux États-Unis. Londres, 13 novembre 1981**

*Texte authentique : anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le 27 juillet 1982.*

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN  
THE SUPPRESSION OF THE UNLAWFUL IMPORTATION OF NARCOTIC  
DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES

I

*The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
to the United States Ambassador at London*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

London, 13 November 1981

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the recent discussions between representatives of our two Governments concerning the desire of the authorities of the United States to take more effective measures to suppress the unlawful importation of cannabis and other narcotic drugs into the United States.

Bearing in mind the special nature of this problem and having regard to the need for international co-operation in suppressing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, which is recognised in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,<sup>2</sup> I have the honour to propose the following:

1. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland agree that they will not object to the boarding by the authorities of the United States, outside the limits of the territorial sea and contiguous zone of the United States and within the areas described in paragraph 9 below, of private vessels under the British flag in any case in which those authorities reasonably believe that the vessel has on board a cargo of drugs for importation into the United States in violation of the laws of the United States.

2. On boarding the vessel the authorities of the United States may address enquiries to those on board, examine the ship's papers and take such other measures as are necessary to establish the place of registration of the vessel. When these measures suggest that an offence against the laws of the United States relative to the importation of narcotic drugs is being committed, the Government of the United Kingdom agree that they will not object to the authorities of the United States instituting a search of the vessel.

3. If the authorities of the United States then believe that an offence against the laws referred to in paragraph 2 above is being committed, the Government of the United Kingdom agree that they will not object to the vessel being seized and taken into a United States port.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 13 November 1981, the date of the note in reply, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, p. 151. See also vol. 557, p. 280 (corrigendum to vol. 520, p. 309); vol. 570, p. 346 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Russian text), and vol. 590, p. 325 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Spanish text).

4. The Government of the United Kingdom may, within 14 days of the vessel's entry into port, object to the continued exercise of United States jurisdiction over the vessel for purposes of the laws referred to in paragraph 2 above, and the Government of the United States shall thereupon release the vessel without charge. The Government of the United States shall not institute forfeiture proceedings before the end of the period allowed for objection.

5. The Government of the United Kingdom may, within 30 days of the vessel's entry into port, object to the prosecution of any United Kingdom national found on board the vessel, and the Government of the United States shall thereupon release such person. The Government of the United Kingdom agree that they will not otherwise object to the prosecution of any person found on board the vessel.

6. Any action by the authorities of the United States shall be taken in accordance with this Agreement and United States law.

7. In any case where a vessel under the British flag is boarded the authorities of the United States shall promptly inform the authorities of the United Kingdom of the action taken and shall keep them fully informed of any subsequent developments.

8. If any loss or injury is suffered as a result of any action taken by the United States in contravention of these arrangements or any improper or unreasonable action taken by the United States pursuant thereto, representatives of the two Governments shall meet at the request of either to decide any question relating to compensation. Representatives of the two Governments shall in any case meet from time to time to review the working of these arrangements.

9. The areas referred to in paragraph 1 above comprise the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, that portion of the Atlantic Ocean West of longitude 55° West and South of latitude 30° North and all other areas within 150 miles of the Atlantic coast of the United States.

10. I have the honour to suggest that if the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United States, this Note and Your Excellency's confirmatory reply shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States which shall enter into force on the date of your reply. It may be terminated by either Government on one month's notice but will continue to remain effective in respect of any proceedings based on action taken during its validity.

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

For the Secretary of State:  
MICHAEL ST. E. BURTON

## II

*The United States Ambassador at London to the Secretary of State  
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 13, 1981

No. 55

Excellency:

I have the honour to refer to your Note of November 13, 1981, which reads as follows:

[See note I]

I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the United States welcomes the cooperation offered by your Government in efforts to suppress the unlawful importation of narcotic drugs into the United States and to confirm that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United States, which therefore agrees that your Note and this reply shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which shall enter into force on the date of this reply.

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

EDWARD J. STREATOR  
Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim*

---