

No. 5287

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
MEXICO**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to a
facility for space vehicle tracking and communication.
Mexico, 12 April 1960**

Official texts: English and Spanish.

Registered by the United States of America on 4 August 1960.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
MEXIQUE**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la création
d'une station pour le repérage des engins spatiaux et les
communications avec ces engins. Mexico, 12 avril 1960**

Textes officiels anglais et espagnol.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 4 août 1960.

No. 5287. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MEXICO RELATING TO A FACILITY FOR SPACE VEHICLE TRACKING AND COMMUNICATION. MEXICO, 12 APRIL 1960

I

The American Ambassador to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations

No. 995

Mexico, D. F., April 12, 1960

Excellency :

I have the honor to refer to recent discussions between our two Governments concerning the establishment and operation, for scientific purposes, of a facility for manned space vehicle tracking and communication therewith. Such facility will be established wherever the authorized representatives of our two Governments may jointly decide.

Such facility shall form part of a world-wide tracking range to be established by the Government of the United States of America in cooperation with other governments in connection with a program for the launching of a manned satellite, known as Project Mercury, by which it is planned to place in an orbital flight an Earth satellite which would be manned by a human being and subsequently recovered.

In as much as the Government of Mexico—having in mind that this is a project definitely civilian in character, without military objectives, and unrelated to programs of atomic energy—has manifested interest in participating in this scientific experiment and, therefore, in contributing toward the knowledge of man's spatial environment and its effects upon him, it is my understanding that Your Excellency's Government has decided to contribute toward the establishment of a tracking and communications facility and that the Mexican and United States representatives who were designated for such purpose have indicated as appropriate a site of 6 hectares in the vicinity of Guaymas, Sonora.

From the discussions referred to above, it develops that we have reached the following conclusions :

For the purposes of the above-described project, there is hereby created the Mexico-United States Commission for Space Tracking Observations for Project Mercury.

The Commission shall consist of two sections : The Mexican section and the United States section. Each of them shall have three members and shall serve jointly as the contact organization between the two Governments and, in

¹ Came into force on 12 April 1960 by the exchange of the said notes.

a spirit of friendship which characterizes the relations between Mexico and the United States and with the scientific aims pursued, it shall be in charge of seeing to it that the project can be brought to a successful conclusion.

The facility shall be established and operated according to the following principles and procedure :

1. The scientific data obtained as the result of this unique experiment shall be made available to the scientists of all participating countries. Mexican scientists shall have ample opportunity to participate in this new and unprecedented attempt to explore the mysteries of outer space.

2. Consistent with the peaceful scientific character of this cooperative project, the Government of the United States of America is prepared to grant access on a reciprocal basis to scientists of all participating countries to visit Project Mercury stations in the United States.

3. The Government of Mexico shall make available to the Commission, without any cost to the latter and for the time hereinafter mentioned, the land selected in the vicinity of Guaymas.

4. The cost of construction, installation, material, equipment and operation of the facility, and in general all the other costs connected with the carrying out of Project Mercury, shall be borne by the United States section.

5. The Government of Mexico shall construct at its own cost three access roads within a right of way of 51 meters in length and 17 meters in width each, which will connect the facility with the local highway to Ortiz which presently passes in front of the site where the facility will be located and is connected with highway 15 of the national highway system. The type of construction and the precise dimensions of the three roads within the three rights of way will be determined by mutual agreement between the technicians to be designated by the Ministry of Public Works and the Commission, which latter may use them without any cost to it.

6. The facility shall consist of installations for an S-band radar, a telemeter, a ground to air transmitter and a ground receiver; installations for point-to-point communications to the extent that communications requirements cannot be met by local telephone and telegraph facilities; and buildings and structures for offices, storage, housing, sanitation and other similar purposes. The structures will generally be of a standard prefabricated type, transportable and removable.

7. The power for the facility shall be obtained from the nearest local plants and only if this is not possible shall it be generated at the site where adequate equipment is to be installed as part of the facility itself.

8. At the request of the Commission, the Government of Mexico shall authorize the use of the radio frequencies required for the purposes of the facility, on the understanding that the high frequency channel for ground-to-air