

No. 5812

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

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning the
establishment in Canton Island of a space vehicle
tracking and communications station. London, 6 April
1961**

Official text: English.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
16 August 1961.*

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

et

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

**Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la création
dans l'île de Canton d'une station pour le repérage des
engins spatiaux et les communications avec ces engins.
Londres, 6 avril 1961**

Texte officiel anglais.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord le
16 août 1961.*

No. 5812. EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CANTON ISLAND OF A SPACE VEHICLE TRACKING AND COMMUNICATIONS STATION. LONDON, 6 APRIL 1961

I

The United States Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at London to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, April 6, 1961

Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the Agreement effected by an Exchange of Notes dated April 6, 1939,² between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the administration of the Islands of Canton and Enderbury in the South Pacific Ocean and in particular to paragraph V of the said Agreement providing that use of any part of either of the Islands or their territorial waters for aviation and other purposes "shall be the subject of agreement between the two Governments".

I have the honor also to refer to recent discussions between representatives of the two Governments concerning a proposal that the Government of the United States should establish and operate, for scientific purposes, a station for space vehicle tracking and communications on Canton Island. Such a station is required by the United States of America as part of a world-wide tracking range being established by the Government of the United States in connection with its manned satellite program, known as Project Mercury, under which the United States plans to place a manned earth satellite into orbital flight and to recover it.

¹ Came into force on 6 April 1961 by the exchange of the said notes.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXCVI, p. 343.

The Government of the United Kingdom, desiring to cooperate with the Government of the United States in this scientific program, and thereby to contribute to the knowledge of man's spatial environment, has indicated its willingness to agree to the request of the United States to establish the said tracking and communications station in Canton Island and its willingness to make such arrangements as are necessary in connection with the establishment and operation of the station.

Accordingly, the Government of the United States proposes that this station shall be established and operated in accordance with the following provisions :

(1) (a) The costs of constructing, installing, equipping and operating the station, which shall be situated at 2° 47' South Latitude and 171° 41' West Longitude, shall be borne wholly by the Government of the United States.

(b) The Government of the United States shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that existing facilities in Canton Island, and especially the airport, are not unduly burdened by the station and its operating personnel of about eighteen United States citizens.

(2) The specific site or sites and ancillary rights required for the station shall be as agreed upon by the authorized representatives of the two Governments. On the part of the Government of the United States, these shall be representatives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (hereinafter referred to as " NASA "). On the part of the Government of the United Kingdom, these shall be the United Kingdom High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, or his representative.

(3) The station shall include installations for telemetry, a ground to air transmitter and a ground receiver; installations for point-to-point communications; a fuel oil storage tank and fuel pumps; power vans; a shore dock; a fuel dock; a fuel oil jetty; facilities for water storage; and necessary supporting buildings and structures for offices, storage, housing, sanitation, and for other purposes which may be required. Buildings shall generally be of a standard prefabricated type, transportable and removable. Power for the station may be generated at the site or sites by equipment installed as part of the station. Roads shall be constructed as necessary, at the expense of the Government of the United States, to connect the station with the local road system and with such other points as may be necessary. NASA shall be permitted to modify the existing Federal Aviation Agency housing development, situated near the airstrip on the northwest tip of Canton Island, to the extent necessary to satisfy its requirements for a water storage facility and for buildings to house its operating personnel.

(4) The Government of the United Kingdom shall cooperate with the Government of the United States to determine the radio frequencies to be used for the station. All radio operations shall be conducted so as not to interfere with the services of installations on Canton Island or in neighboring territories, and shall comply at all times with the provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention.