



Treaty Series No. 59 (1948)

Exchange of Notes  
constituting an Agreement

between the Government of the United Kingdom  
and the Government of Portugal

for the Extension of Transit Facilities in the  
Azores to British Military Aircraft

Lisbon, 25th May, 1948

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF TRANSIT FACILITIES IN THE AZORES  
TO BRITISH MILITARY AIRCRAFT

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*Lisbon, 25th May, 1948*

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No. 1

*His Majesty's Ambassador to the Portuguese Minister for  
Foreign Affairs*

*British Embassy,  
Lisbon, 25th May, 1948.*

Your Excellency,

ON the 2nd February your Excellency was so good as to communicate to me the text of the Notes exchanged on that day between yourself and the United States Ambassador for the continuance of the transit facilities granted to United States military aircraft in the Azores under the Agreement of the 30th May, 1946 <sup>(1)</sup>. In making this communication your Excellency drew my attention to Clause (e) of the Notes, which runs as follows:—

“The Portuguese Government reserves the right to grant the Government of Great Britain transit facilities analogous to those mentioned in this Agreement.”

2. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom deeply appreciate the action of the Portuguese Government in including this provision in the Agreement and will be extremely grateful if, as they understand is the intention of the Portuguese Government, transit facilities such as have been granted to the United States authorities may be extended to British military aircraft. They have instructed me to enquire whether the arrangements set out in the following paragraph would be agreeable to the Portuguese Government.

3. The Portuguese Government will grant to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom transit facilities for British military aircraft, at Lagens aerodrome in the same conditions as they are accorded to United States military aircraft for a period of three years beginning the 2nd December, 1947, which shall be extended for two years more, if not terminated by the Portuguese Government with three months' notice. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may relinquish the facilities at any moment. The British aircraft availing themselves of these facilities shall use the Portuguese services and installations at the aerodrome.

4. If the Portuguese Government accept the arrangements proposed above, I have the honour to propose that your Excellency's affirmative reply should constitute, with this Note, an agreement between the two Governments.

I avail, &c.  
(Sgd.) N. RONALD.

<sup>(1)</sup> “Portugal No. 3 (1946),” Cmd. 6854.

## No. 2

*The Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs to His Majesty's  
Ambassador at Lisbon*

Senhor Embaixador,

*Lisboa, 25 de Maio de 1948.*

TENHO a honra de acusar recepção da Nota de V. Ex<sup>a</sup>., datada de hoje, do teor seguinte:

“ No dia 2 de Fevereiro teve V. Ex<sup>a</sup>. a amabilidade de me comunicar o texto das Notas trocadas nesse dia entre V. Ex<sup>a</sup>. e o Embaixador dos Estados Unidos relativas à continuação das facilidades de trânsito concedidas à aviação militar dos Estados Unidos nos Açores pelo Acordo de 30 de Maio de 1946.

“ Ao fazer esta comunicação chamou V. Ex<sup>a</sup>. a minha atenção para a cláusula (e) das mesmas Notas redigida nos termos seguintes:

“ ‘ O Governo português reserva-se o direito de conceder ao Governo da Grã-Bretanha facilidades de trânsito análogas às mencionadas neste Acordo.’

“ 2. O Governo de sua Magestade no Reino Unido aprecia profundamente a acção do Governo português ao inserir essa cláusula no Acordo e ficará extremamente agradecido se, como julga ser intenção do Governo português, forem tornadas extensivas à aviação militar britânica as mesmas facilidades de trânsito que foram concedidas às autoridades dos Estados Unidos. O Governo de Sua Magestade deu-me instruções para averiguar se os arranjos estabelecidos no parágrafo seguinte seriam agradáveis ao Governo português.

“ 3. O Governo português concederá ao Governo de Sua Magestade Britânica no Reino Unido facilidades de trânsito para a aviação militar britânica no Aerodromo das Lagens nas mesmas condições em que elas são concedidas à aviação militar dos Estados Unidos, por um período de três anos a começar em 2 de Dezembro de 1947, o qual poderá ser prorrogado por mais dois anos, se não for dado por findo pelo Governo português com o aviso prévio de três meses. O Governo de Sua Magestade no Reino Unido poderá renunciar às facilidades em qualquer momento. Os aviões britânicos que se aproveitarem destas facilidades poderão utilizar os serviços e instalações portuguesas do Aerodromo.

“ 4. Se o Governo português aceitar os arranjos acima propostos, tenho a honra de propor que a resposta afirmativa de V. Ex<sup>a</sup>. constitua, com a presente Nota, um acordo entre os dois Governos.”

O Governo português concorda com o conteúdo da Nota acima transcrita e considera esse documento e esta resposta como constituindo o acordo entre os nossos dois Governos.

Aproveito, &amp;c.

(Sgd.) JOSÉ CAEIRO DA MATTA.

(Translation of No. 2)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

*Lisbon, 25th May, 1948.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's Note of to-day's date, of the following tenour:—

[As in No. 1]

The Portuguese Government concurs in the contents of the Note reproduced above and considers that document and this reply as constituting an agreement between our two Governments.

I avail, &amp;c.

(Sgd.) JOSÉ CAEIRO DA MATTA.

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