



Treaty Series No. 86 (1955)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of Ethiopia

providing for the Termination of the
Lease of the Gambia Enclave

Addis Ababa, July 5 and August 12, 1955

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
December 1955*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

FOURPENCE NET

Cmd. 9646

EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA PROVIDING FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE OF THE GAMBEILA ENCLAVE

Addis Ababa, July 5 and August 12, 1955

No. 1

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Addis Ababa to the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs

British Embassy,

Your Excellency,

Addis Ababa, July 5, 1955.

I have the honour to refer to Article IV of the Treaty concluded between our two Governments and signed at Addis Ababa on May 15, 1902.⁽¹⁾ As your Excellency is aware, it is the view of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that the period of lease of the Gambia enclave under the term of that Article runs until the termination of the condominium in the Sudan, which will represent the termination of Anglo-Egyptian government there. The legal termination of the condominium will in their view actually take effect at the moment when the Governor-General of the Sudan hands over his powers to a new Government of the Sudan and leaves the country. This transfer of power may be expected to take place during the first quarter of 1957.

2. Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are nevertheless aware of the desire of the Imperial Ethiopian Government to secure an early termination of the lease of the Gambia enclave. Accordingly I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared, without prejudice to the legal interpretation of Article IV of the aforesaid Treaty and in the interests of meeting the expressed desire of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, to agree that the actual return of the Gambia enclave in full sovereignty to the Imperial Ethiopian Government shall take place during the flood season of 1956; that is to say, during the period mid-July to mid-October; and shall be finally completed by mid-October 1956. I am also to propose that in July 1956 negotiations should begin in Gambia between representatives of your Government and of the Government of the Sudan regarding details of the hand-over, including *inter alia* such matters as the disposal of physical assets and the transfer of administration.

3. If the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Imperial Ethiopian Government I have the honour to suggest that the present Note and your Excellency's reply to that effect should be regarded as constituting an agreement between our two Governments in this matter.

I avail, &c.

J. E. KILLICK.

(1) "Treaty Series No. 16 (1902)," Cd. 1370.

*The Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires
at Addis Ababa*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Addis Ababa, August 12, 1955.

Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your Note of July 5, 1955,
reading as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

It is, further, a pleasure for me hereby to declare the agreement of the
Imperial Ethiopian Government with the provisions of paragraph 2 of that
Note. In consequence, that paragraph of your Note under reference and the
present reply should be regarded as constituting an agreement between our
two Governments in the matter to which those two Notes refer.

Accept. &c.

AKLILOU.

Printed and published by
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