



Treaty Series No. 55 (1974)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
concerning assistance by the  
United Kingdom in the clearance  
of the Suez Canal

Cairo, 14 May 1974

[The Arrangement entered into force on 14 May 1974]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
November 1974*

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

6p net

ISBN 0 10 157450 9

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
CONCERNING ASSISTANCE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM  
IN THE CLEARANCE OF THE SUEZ CANAL**

No. 1

*The British Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Cairo to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.*

*British Embassy,  
Cairo.*

*14 May 1974.*

Your Excellency

I have the honour to refer to discussions between this Embassy and officials of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt concerning the offer by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of assistance in the clearance of the Suez Canal of mines and unexploded ordnance and to propose an arrangement in the following terms:

- (1) The Government of the United Kingdom shall deploy Her Majesty's Ships *Maxton*, *Bossington* and *Wilton*, minehunters, and Her Majesty's Ship *Abdiel*, the mine countermeasures support vessel, with members of the Fleet Clearance Diving Team and such other UK personnel as are necessary for their support, called hereinafter "the British Force" to assist in the underwater clearance of explosive ordnance.
- (2) The Government of the United Kingdom shall without setting a specific time limit to the availability of this Force keep the matter under review in consultation with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The British Force shall co-ordinate their activities with those of the Egyptian Armed Forces and the forces of any other countries who may have been invited to participate in the operation, the arrangements for this co-ordination being as may be agreed between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Egypt from time to time. The Government of the United Kingdom shall bear the costs, including the pay of personnel, that would have been incurred by the units concerned even if they had not come to Egypt and shall, in addition, provide on grant terms for such supplementary costs as shall not be borne by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. These grants shall be offset by a corresponding deduction from the loan funds made available under the United Kingdom/Egypt Loan Agreement 1972.<sup>(1)</sup>

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<sup>(1)</sup> Treaty Series No. 129 (1972), Cmnd. 5172.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of Egypt, I have the honour to propose that this Note together with Your Excellency's reply in that sense, shall constitute an arrangement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of Your Excellency's reply and shall remain in force until the day of the departure of the British Force from Egyptian territory or territorial waters.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

RICHARD FABER

No. 2

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the  
British Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at Cairo*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

M. Chargé d'Affaires

*14 May 1974.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Note of today's date which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing proposal is acceptable to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt who therefore agree that Your Note and the present reply shall constitute an arrangement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on today's date. Further details concerning this arrangement will be worked out, as may be necessary, between the two Governments.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, M. Chargé d'Affaires, the assurance of my high consideration.

ISMAIL FAHMY

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*