

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OVER THE CONSTRUCTION  
AND OPERATION OF DEFENCE FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND OF ALDABRA IN  
THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

PREAMBLE

1. In furtherance of the Exchange of Notes signed at London on 30th December 1966 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Availability for Defence Purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory the duly designated representatives of the two Governments have reached the following agreement on the development and operation of defence facilities on the island of Aldabra. It is the intention of the two Governments that in the construction and use of any such defence facilities and accommodation there should be full and continuous consultation with such societies and bodies promoted for the furtherance of scientific study in the United Kingdom and the United States as the two Governments shall agree.

OBJECTIVES

2. An airfield and its associated facilities are to be developed Aldabra to meet the operational needs of the United Kingdom and United States Governments. The airfield and its associated facilities are to be operated and administered by the Royal Air Force. The United States Air Force are to have the right to make use of the airfield and its associated facilities for defence purposes subject to the conditions specified in this Agreement. All reasonable steps possible are to be taken to restrict disturbance to will life on the island to a minimum.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NI/RAC 00-313 5-25-04  
By iss NARA Date 5-25-04

~~SECRET~~

NSF, Country FL, Bx 211, "UK, Memo, Vol. XII, 7-12/67  
COPY LBJ LIBRARY

~~SECRET~~DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

3. This Agreement shall remain in force during an initial period of      years from its signature with an option for either party to bring it to an end after      years, subject to      years' notice. It may be reviewed at any time, at the instance of either party, to determine whether any adjustments are necessary or desirable. The duration of the agreement may be extended by agreement between the two Governments.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED

The facilities to be provided have been agreed between the Governments [and are listed in Annex A\*]. Any changes to the agreed facilities, or additions to them, or replacements of them shall be subject to the agreement of both Governments.

/5. ...

\*[Annex A and section in square brackets are not for publication].

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The British Government, through the agency of the Ministry of Public Building and works and the Ministry of Defence as appropriate, shall be responsible for arranging the design, contracting, construction and equipment of the agreed facilities in consultation with the US authorities designated for the purpose. The United States Government shall reimburse the British Government with half of all the costs (including overheads and transportation costs, where appropriate) other than the pay of Service personnel, incurred in the provision of the agreed facilities, and in the replacement of individual facilities or equipment as may subsequently be found necessary. The United States Government shall also reimburse the British Government with half the cost of maintenance of buildings, yards and other constructions.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

6. From the date when the airfield becomes operational, the other costs normally incurred in running the airfield and its associated facilities shall be borne by the British Government. This date shall be agreed between the British Government and the US Government. The Government of the United States shall reimburse the Government of the United Kingdom for any readily identifiable additional cost to the latter arising out of the use of the airfield and its associated facilities by US forces.
7. To implement the foregoing provisions in accordance with detailed arrangements to be made between the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence and the United States Air Force as the designated agent to the United States Government, existing procedures relating to the establishment of fairness and reasonableness of costs and to auditing, billing and payment will be applied as far as practicable; where these do not exist mutually satisfactory arrangements will be worked out between the UK Ministry of Defence, the UK Ministry of Public Building and Works and the United States Air Force authorities.
8. Should at any time both Governments have no further requirement for the agreed facilities, arrangements for their disposal will be agreed between the two Governments.

ITY

9. The British Government will be responsible for the security and protection of the airfield and its associated facilities and of the equipment and other property and operations of the British and United States forces using the airfield, and will in consultation as appropriate with the US Government take steps to ensure this.

PROTECTION OF WILD LIFE

10. In the joint use of Aldabra for defence purposes there shall be the fullest cooperation between the British Service Authorities, the Authorities of the British Indian Ocean Territory, and the United States Authorities to secure the preservation of the flora and fauna and ecology of Aldabra. Legislation will be enacted and measures taken

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

by the Service authorities of the United Kingdom and the United States and the authorities of the British Indian Ocean Territory or

- (a) establish and protect areas to which access by all persons will be prohibited save for the purpose of the maintenance of such areas and scientific study;
- (b) prohibit the importation by individuals of all flora and fauna, living or dead, save for certain permitted foodstuffs;
- (c) eliminate so far as possible all risk of fire;
- (d) control waste disposal, hunting, fishing, collecting, the export of flora and fauna and the import and use of contaminants, pollutants and any other substance which might affect the ecology of the island;
- (e) enable persons contravening such legislation to be removed from Aldabra;
- (f) facilitate research and study into the wild-life Aldabra and the conservation of the existing ecology.

OF THE AIRFIELD AND ITS ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

11. Arrangements shall be made between the British and the United States Governments to ensure that the operation of the airfield and associated facilities is carried out in such a way as having any but interference between the forces of the two Governments.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

12. United States forces, or appointed agents acting on the behalf as agreed between the two Governments, shall have free access to the airfield, and the use of the facilities provided there to meet joint requirements, subject only to the operational control of the airfield and its facilities which will rest at all times with the British Commander. The United States Air Force will request normal air traffic control clearance for all landings of aircraft on the airfield, and give due warning in advance of any intention to gain access to the airfield and its associated facilities by sea. The US Government will in addition use their best endeavours to give the maximum advance warning of all flights and sailings to and from the airfield and its associated facilities.

13. The British Commander will at all times ensure that so far as possible joint facilities and shared accommodation for use both by British and United States forces or their appointed agents are suitably distributed between them.

14. The British Commander will consult with the Commander of the US forces on matters affecting US forces on the island; in such matters he will use his best endeavours to advise the course of action he proposes to take with the Commander of the US forces.

#### AGREEMENTS

15. Relevant agreements and arrangements concluded between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom, or their military and other appropriate authorities, concerning the privileges, immunities, responsibilities and activities of the United States forces and United States personnel in territories under United Kingdom jurisdiction will, except as otherwise provided, be applicable to the activities under this agreement.

~~SECRET~~