

# JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF CANTON AND ENDERBURY ISLANDS

*Exchange of notes at Washington April 6, 1939, with text of agreement  
Entered into force April 6, 1939*

53 Stat. 2219; Executive Agreement Series 145

*The Secretary of State to the British Ambassador*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

*April 6, 1939*

EXCELLENCY:

With reference to recent correspondence between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Canton and Enderbury Islands in the South Pacific Ocean, I have the honor to propose an Agreement concerning these islands in the following terms:

I

The Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom, without prejudice to their respective claims to Canton and Enderbury Islands, agree to a joint control over these islands.

II

The islands shall, during the period of joint control, be administered by a United States and a British official appointed by their respective Governments. The manner in which these two officials shall exercise the powers of administration reserved to them under this paragraph shall be determined by the two Governments in consultation as occasion may require.

III

The islands shall, during the period of joint control, be subject to a special joint *ad hoc* régime the details of which shall be determined by the two Governments in consultation from time to time.