

April 6 1939



See 91/57

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

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

Sir Ronald Lindsay P.C.,

G.C.B.G., K.C.M.G., C.V.O.,

British Ambassador.

INDEX

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.

IV

The islands shall be available for communications and for use as airports for international aviation, but only civil aviation companies incorporated in the United States of America or in any part of the British Commonwealth of Nations shall be permitted to use them for the purpose of scheduled air services.

V

The use of any part of either of the islands or their territorial waters for aviation purposes, except as herein

agreed

agreed upon, or for any other purpose, shall be the subject of agreement between the two Governments.

the Government of the United Kingdom this note and Your

VI

Excellency's reply thereto in similar terms shall be regarded as placing on record the understanding arrived at

An airport may be constructed and operated on Canton Island by an American company or companies, satisfactory between the two Governments concerning this subject.

to the United States Government, which, in return for an agreed fee, shall provide facilities for British aircraft and British civil aviation companies equal to those enjoyed by United States aircraft and by such American company or companies. In case of dispute as to fees, or the conditions of use by British aircraft or by British civil aviation companies, the matter shall be settled by arbitration.

VII

The joint control hereby set up shall have a duration of fifty years from this day's date. If no agreement to the contrary is reached before the expiration of that period the joint control shall continue thereafter until such time as it may be modified or terminated by the mutual consent of the two Governments.

I have the honor to suggest that if an Agreement in

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