



Treaty Series No. 16 (1998)

# Exchange of Notes

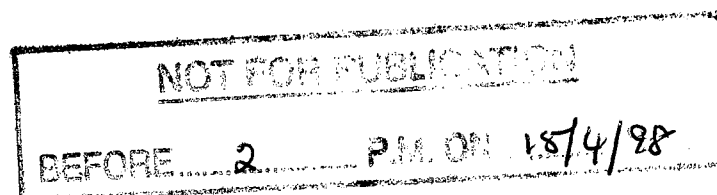
between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay concerning

## the Transfer of the Hut Located in Hope Bay (Bahía Esperanza) in the Antarctic Peninsula

Montevideo, 8 December 1997

[The Exchange of Notes entered into force on 8 December 1997]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
April 1998*



EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF THE HUT LOCATED IN HOPE BAY (BAHÍA ESPERANZA) IN THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

No. 1

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Montevideo to the Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay*

*British Embassy  
Montevideo  
8 December 1997*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the hut at Hope Bay (Bahía Esperanza) in the Peninsula in Antarctica which is owned by the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC), the parent body of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). The British Government, having consulted both NERC and BAS is pleased to confirm that the hut is not being used, and that if the Uruguayan Government wish to take over the hut, free of charge and indefinitely, NERC would not assert any right or title to the hut, or its facilities, and would relinquish all responsibility for them.

If the Uruguayan Government, acting within the framework of the Antarctic Treaty<sup>1</sup>, in particular Article II, is ready to take over the hut and its facilities on the above-mentioned basis, and accept responsibility for the future use and upkeep of the hut and its facilities, neither NERC nor the British Government would have any objection.

If the Government of Uruguay accepts this proposal, I have the honour to propose that this Note and your reply in the affirmative shall constitute an Agreement between our two Governments, and that the transfer of the hut and its facilities shall take effect on the date of your reply.

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

ROBERT HENDRIE

No. 2

*The Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Montevideo*

*Montevideo  
8 de diciembre 1997*

Señor Embajador:

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Vuestra Excelencia en relación a su Nota del día de la fecha, por la que se propone el establecimiento de un Acuerdo entre la República Oriental del Uruguay y el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte sobre la toma de posesión del refugio ubicado en Hope Bay (Bahía Esperanza) en la Península Antártica. El texto de su Nota se transcribe en idioma español como sigue:

“Su Excelencia:

”Tengo el honor de hacer referencia al refugio ubicado en Hope Bay (Bahía Esperanza) en la Península Antártica, que es propiedad del Consejo de Investigación del Medio

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<sup>1</sup>Treaty Series No. 97 (1961) Cmnd 1535.

"Ambiente Natural (NERC), organismo rector del Instituto de Investigaciones  
"Antárticas (BAS). Habiendo consultado tanto al NERC como al BAS, El Gobierno  
"Británico tiene el placer de confirmar que dicho refugio no está siendo utilizado y que  
"si el Gobierno Uruguayo deseara tomar posesión del mismo, libre de cargo y por  
"tiempo indefinido, el NERC no hará valer sus derechos de propiedad sobre dicho  
"refugio y renunciará a toda responsabilidad por el mismo.

"Si el Gobierno Uruguayo, actuando dentro del marco del Tratado Antártico, en  
"particular del Artículo II, está dispuesto a tomar posesión del refugio y sus  
"instalaciones en las condiciones arriba mencionadas y a aceptar toda responsabilidad  
"por el futuro uso y mantenimiento del refugio y de sus instalaciones, ni el NERC ni  
"el Gobierno Británico tendrán objeción alguna.

"Si el Gobierno de Uruguay acepta esta propuesta, tengo el honor de proponer que  
"esta Nota y su respuesta afirmativa constituyan un Acuerdo entre nuestros dos  
"gobiernos y que la transferencia del refugio y sus instalaciones entre en vigencia en la  
"fecha de su respuesta.

"Me valgo de la oportunidad para reiterar a su Excelencia las seguridades de mi  
"más alta y distinguida consideración."

Al respecto, cumplo en poner en conocimiento de Vuestra Excelencia la  
conformidad del Gobierno de la República Oriental del Uruguay con las  
disposiciones transcritas, por lo que la presente Nota y la de Vuestra Excelencia  
constituyen un Acuerdo entre nuestros dos Gobiernos que entrará en vigor en el día  
de la fecha.

Reitero a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi más alta consideración.

G. LASARTE

TRANSLATION OF NO. 2

Ambassador:

I have the honour to write to Your Excellency regarding your Note of today's date, by  
which an Agreement is proposed between the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the transfer of the hut located  
in Hope Bay (Bahía Esperanza) in the Antarctic Peninsula. The text of your Note is  
transcribed in Spanish as follows:

*/ or which in translation reads as follows:*  
[As in No. 1]

With regard to the above, I wish to inform Your Excellency of the consent of the  
Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the arrangements as set out, and  
therefore this Note and Your Excellency's Note shall constitute an Agreement between our  
two Governments which will come into force today.

I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

(G. LASARTE —

*This is just part of the translation which was not itself signed.)*

