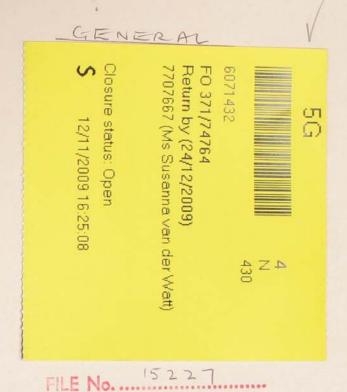
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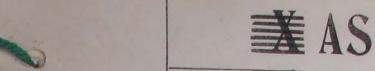
F.O. 371

1949



CLOSED UNTIL 1980

74764



1812 AS

1949

GENERAL

Registry Number | AS. 1812/15227/51 Commonwealth Relations FROM Office (Mr. Larmour, to Mr. Stirling)

Secret

in Registry

29th Mch. Received 31st Mch. Transfer of the sovereignty of Prince Edward and Marion Islands from Britain to the Union of South Africa

Refers to F.O. letter AS.3349/16/51 of 19th July, 1948.

Last Paper.

AS6242/16/51

74764

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The wording of the last senter of the c. 20. note differs clightly from the deaft in As 3349, but the point

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CL Det to 9/4.

D. Rhang FORD 1.8.R.
18/4

(Index.) (Action ON completed.) 8.2.50

Next Paper.

Commonwealth Relations Office,

Downing Street.

25 March, 1949.

F.2876/25 SECRET

Enle

1812

Dear Stirling,

15.2.49.

With reference to your letter No. AS.3349/16/51 of the 19th July, 1948, about the Prince Edward Island and Marion Island, I enclose copies of the Exchange of Notes between the Secretary of State and the Acting High Commissioner for South Africa in London.

These letters, the terms of which you have already seen, confirm the transfer to the South African Government of the United Kingdom Government's rights etc., in the Islands.

Their contents are to remain secret, at least for the present.

Yours sincerely,

E.N. Lamour

South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Ref. No. 19/88/2

SECRET

22nd February, 1949

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th February, 1949 reading as follows:-

"I have the honour hereby to confirm the arrangement that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should transfer to His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa the rights, title and interests which they formerly possessed in Marion Island and Prince Edward Island. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have taken note that the national flag of the Union of South Africa was hoisted on Marion Island on 24th December, 1947, and on Prince Edward Island on 4th January, 1948, and that effective government and administration of the Islands were established by His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa as from those dates; and consequently regard the transfer as complete as from those dates."

His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa have duly taken note of this declaration of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and for their part likewise regard the transfer as complete as from the dates referred to therein.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) C.H.Torrance

Secretary of State
for Commonwealth Relations.

Commonwealth Relations Office, Downing Street.

15th February, 1949.

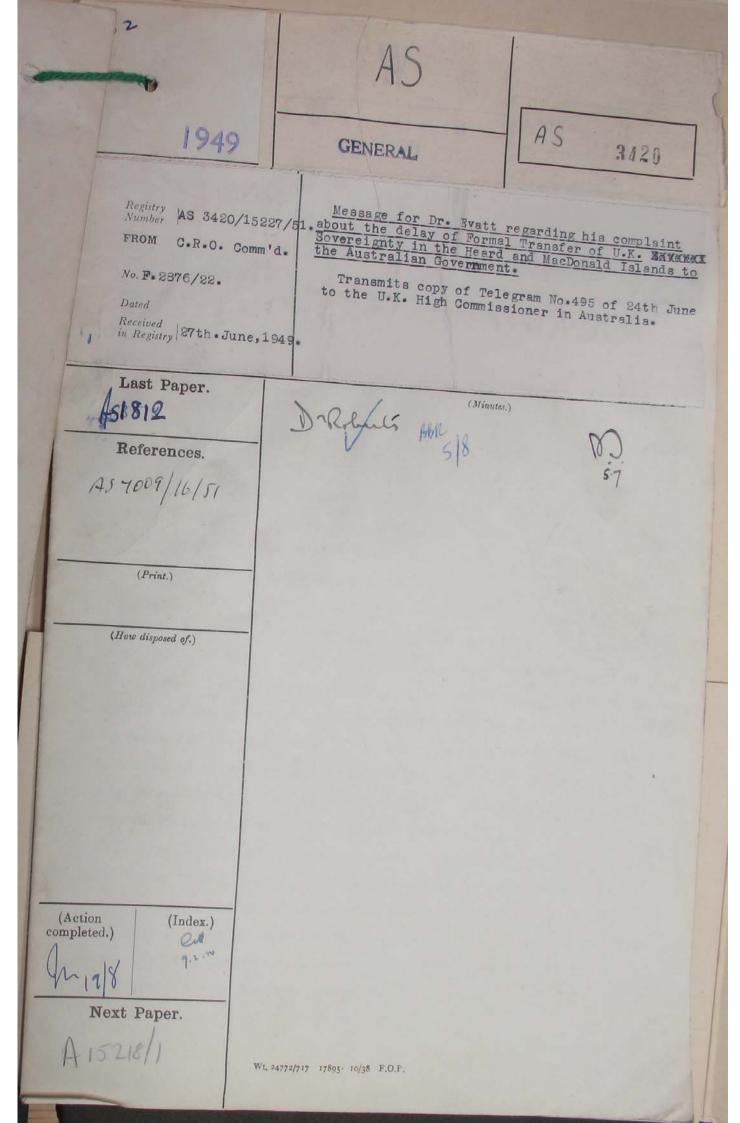
Sir,

I have the honour hereby to confirm the arrangement that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom Should transfer to His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa the rights, title and interests which they formerly possessed in Marion Island and Prince Edward Island. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have taken note that the national flag of the Union of South Africa was hoisted on Marion Island on 24th December, 1947, and on Prince Edward Island on 4th January, 1948, and that were established by His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa as from those dates; and consequently regard the transfer as complete as from those dates.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd) P.J. Noel-Baker

His Excellency
The High Commissioner for the
Union of South Africa.



This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher message and unless it is municated to persons outside British and United States Government Services.

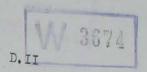
Any telegraphic retransmission of a telegram marked Publex or Typex must

W

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth Relations Office

F. A. & U.N. DEPT. F. 2876/22

CYPHER (TYPEX)



TO: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN COMMONWEALTH OF

(Sent 11.45 hours 24th June, 1949)

No. 495 CONFIDENTIAL

During his recent visit to London Dr. Evatt complained to me that no progress had been made with proparation of formal document recording transfer of United Kingdom sovereignty in Heard and MacDonald Islands to Australian Government. He implied that responsibility for delay rested with us.

2. Actual position is as follows:-

As result of meeting here with Professor Bailey in

December, 1948, it was agreed that transfer can be best formalised

by Exchange of Notes. Drafts of these were sent to Australia House

in January. In February, Australia House told us that on reconsideration

view of Australian Government was that it would be preferable to proceed

by means of Order-in-Council. We agreed to this and in March sent

to Australia House for their consideration the draft of such an Order.

Despite subsequent enquiries we have yet to learn whether this draft

meets with approval of Australian authorities.

3. Please give Dr. Evatt a personal message from me explaining that I have looked into the matter as a result of his enquiries and find that the position is as described in paragraph 2. We are very ready to make progress, but are still waiting to hear from the Australian Government whether the draft Order submitted to Australia House in March is acceptable to them.

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