

Restricted

P(51)10

Previous Reference P(49)13

Polar Committee

Marion and Prince Edward Islands

The attached correspondence, relating to the transfer of the administration of Marion Island and Prince Edward Island from the United Kingdom to the Union of South Africa, is circulated for the information of the Committee.

(Signed) A. H. REED

Secretary,
Polar Committee.

Commonwealth Relations Office,

30 May, 1951.

MARION and PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS

The South African Government took over the administration of Marion Island and Prince Edward Island at the end of 1947, by agreement with the United Kingdom Government. The transfer was confirmed by an exchange of letters between the two Governments which was published on 8th September, 1950.

Letter dated 15th February, 1949, from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations to His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London.

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 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.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most humble and
obedient servant,

(Sgd.) P. J. NOEL-BAKER

Letter dated the 22nd February, 1949, from the Acting High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th February, 1949.

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.) J. H. TORRANCE.