


SOUTH AMERICAN

F.O.
371

1949

GENERAL

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6071432
FO 371/74764
Return by (24/12/2009)
7707667 (Ms Susanna van der Watt)

Closure status: Open
S 12/11/2009 16:25:08

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430

FILE No.15227.....

CLOSED
UNTIL
1980

74764

AS

AS 1812

GENERAL

1949

Registry Number } AS.1812/15227/51
Commonwealth Relations
FROM Office
(Mr. Larmour, to
Mr. Stirling)
No. F.2876/25
Secret
Dated 29th Mch.
Received 31st Mch.
in Registry 1949

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.

(Minutes.)

(AS.3349/16/51 - 1948)

References.

AS.6242/16/51

74764

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

The wording of the last
sentence of the C.R.O. note
differs slightly from the draft
in AS3349, but the point
seems immaterial.

W. King
5.4

S. T. J. ^{see B²/₄}

C. L. Dpt ^{for 9/4}

D. R. ^{FOR B.B.R.}
13/4

M
5/4

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Jan 19/4

em
8.2.53

Next Paper.

AS

Commonwealth Relations Office,

Downing Street.

29th March, 1949.

Enter

F.2876/25

SECRET

1812

Dear Stirling,

15.2.49.
22.2.49.

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. Lamou

P. J. STIRLING, ESQ.

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

Ref. No. 19/88/2

22nd February, 1949

SECRET

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.

COPY

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 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, etc.,

(Sgd) P.J. Noel-Baker

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

2

AS

1949

GENERAL

AS

3420

Registry Number AS 3420/15227/51.

FROM C.R.O. Comm'd.

No. F. 2376/22.

Dated

Received in Registry 27th. June, 1949.

Message for Dr. Evatt regarding his complaint about the delay of Formal Transfer of U.K. ~~SOVEREIGNTY~~ Sovereignty in the Heard and MacDonal Islands to the Australian Government.

Transmits copy of Telegram No.495 of 24th June to the U.K. High Commissioner in Australia.

Last Paper.

AS 1812

References.

AS 7009/16/51

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

12/8

(Index.)

ed
7.2.50

Next Paper.

A 15218/1

(Minutes.)

Dr. Roberts

5/8

57

3420
Enter
W

This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher message and unless it is marked O.T.P. (One Time Pad) or Publex must first be paraphrased if communicated to persons outside British and United States Government Services. Any telegraphic retransmission of a telegram marked Publex or Typex must be in a One Time System.

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth Relations Office

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

W 3674

D. II

CYPHER (TYPEX)

TO: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN COMMONWEALTH OF
AUSTRALIA

(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 preparation of formal document recording transfer of United Kingdom sovereignty in Heard and MacDonalld 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.

RECEIVED IN
27 JUN 1949
NEXT TO DEPT.

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a formal telegram or official communication.]