

SOUTH AFRICA



Treaty Series No. 120 (1975)

# Exchange of Letters

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the Republic of South Africa  
terminating the Agreements signed at  
London on 30 June 1955 relating to the  
Simonstown Naval Base

London/Cape Town, 6/16 June 1975

[The Exchange of Letters entered into force on 16 June 1975]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
October 1975*

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**EXCHANGE OF LETTERS**  
**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF**  
**GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**  
**TERMINATING THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT LONDON ON**  
**30 JUNE 1955 RELATING TO THE SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE**

No. 1

*The Secretary of State for Defence to the Minister of Defence of the  
Republic of South Africa*

*Ministry of Defence,  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.*

Sir,

6th June 1975.

I have the honour to refer to the discussions which took place in Cape Town in April and May 1975 between representatives of our two Governments concerning the Agreement on the defence of the sea routes round Southern Africa and the Agreement relating to the transfer of the Simonstown naval base concluded between our two Governments by letters exchanged in London on 30th June 1955<sup>(1)</sup>, in which it was proposed on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom that those Agreements should be terminated. It is my understanding that the Government of the Republic of South Africa are willing to agree to that proposal.

Accordingly I have the honour to propose that the present letter and your reply confirming that the Government of the Republic of South Africa agree to that proposal shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments terminating the above-mentioned Agreements with effect from the date of your reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

ROY MASON

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(1) Cmd. 9520.

No. 2

*The Minister of Defence of the Republic of South Africa to the Secretary  
of State for Defence*

Sir,

16 June 1975.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6 June 1975 which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

In reply I have the honour to confirm that the Government of the Republic of South Africa agree to the proposal by the Government of the United Kingdom that the two Agreements mentioned in your letter should be terminated and that your letter and this reply shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments terminating the above-mentioned Agreements with effect from today's date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

P. W. BOTHA.

No. 3

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cape Town to the Secretary for Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of South Africa*

*British Embassy,*

*Parliament Street, Cape Town.*

Dear Mr. Fourie,

16 June 1975.

As you are aware, the Simonstown Agreements have today been terminated by letters exchanged between the Defence Ministers of our two countries. In this connection, I have been instructed to inform you that it is the understanding of Her Majesty's Government that the termination of the Simonstown Agreements does not revive any rights or obligations of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the naval base at Simonstown which subsisted prior to the conclusion of the Agreements in 1955.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES BOTTOMLEY.