

dom Government. The transfer was confirmed by the United Kingdom and South African Governments in February 1949, in a formal exchange of letters, which are now published. Marion and Prince Edward are two islands in the Indian Ocean, about 1200 miles south-east of Cape Town, in lat. 47° S., 38° E."

Letter dated 15 February 1949, from the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations to 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 24 December 1947, and on Prince Edward Island on 4 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,

[Signed] P. J. NOEL-BAKER

Letter dated 22 February 1950, from the 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 15 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,

[Signed] J. H. TORRANCE

RENEWAL OF ANTARCTIC NAVAL AGREEMENT FOR SEASON 1950-51

[The following statement was issued by the Foreign Office on 20 November 1950. The texts of the agreements made in 1948 and 1949 were published in the *Polar Record*, Vol. 5, Nos. 37/38, 1949, p. 361 (for season 1948-49), and Vol. 5, No. 40, 1950, p. 635-36 (for season 1949-50).]

"In order to avoid the risk of incidents during the last two Antarctic summer seasons which might disturb normal friendly relations, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, and the Argentine and Chilean Governments have each year informed one another that they saw no need to send naval vessels south of latitude 60 degrees apart from such naval movements as have become customary. In view of the satisfactory results which have followed from these declarations, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Argentine and Chilean Governments recently entered into conversations in order to see whether an extension to the current season could be

arranged. As a result of these conversations, statements were exchanged on 20th November between the Governments concerned in the following terms:

Being anxious to avoid any misunderstanding in Antarctica which may affect the friendly relations between the United Kingdom, Argentina and Chile, the Governments of these three countries have informed each other that, in present circumstances, they foresee no need to send warships south of latitude 60 degrees during the 1950 to 1951 Antarctic season apart, of course, from movements such as have been customary for a number of years.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom feel confident that these parallel statements of intention will continue to ensure that incidents likely to cause unnecessary friction in Antarctica between the three Powers are avoided. The United States Government have been kept informed."

[On 21 November 1950 the Department of State in Washington issued the following statement.]

"The Government of the United States is pleased to learn that, being anxious to avoid any misunderstanding in Antarctica which might affect the friendly relations between Argentina, Chile and the United Kingdom the Governments of these three countries have informed each other that in present circumstances they foresee no need to send warships south of latitude 60 degrees during the 1950-51 Antarctic season, apart, of course, from movements such as have been customary for a number of years.

The United States Government does not contemplate sending any vessels to Antarctica during the 1950-51 Antarctic season."